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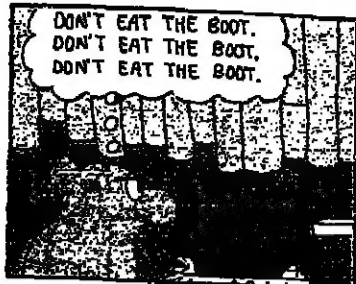
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VOLUME LXVI, NUMBER 20040

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1998 • TISHREI 7, 5759 • 7 JAMAD THANI 1419

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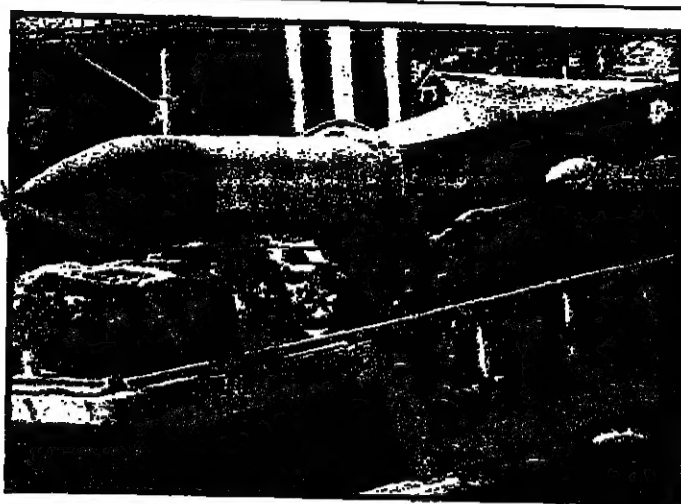


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Sosa, McGwire down to the wire

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An Iranian Shihab-3 missile takes part in a parade in Teheran on Friday to mark the 18th anniversary of the outbreak of the war with Iraq. (AP)

Iran unveils Shihab-3 missile

Has plans for longer-range model

By Jerusalem Post Staff and AP

Iran will develop a new missile that will outdistance its predecessor, which is already capable of striking Israel, Iranian Defense Minister Ali Shamkhani said yesterday.

Iran unveiled the Shihab-3 missile during a military parade Friday. The newly developed weapon has a range of 1,300 kilometers, which means it can hit Israel, Saudi Arabia and parts of Russia and Europe.

"Certainly we will work on the development of the Shihab-4 and 5, but this does not mean we will start tomorrow," he said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's spokesman Aviv Bushinsky said the prime minister had no comment to make on the matter.

Communications Director David Bar-Ilan said Netanyahu had been warning the world about this development for some time.

"This is a threat not only to Israel but to anyone in the region, including Europe," said Bar-Ilan, noting the fact that such technology was in the hands of a "unpredictable, totalitarian, extreme" regime such as Iran should be cause for worry on the part of all peace-loving nations.

Defense Ministry adviser Maj.-Gen. (res.) Moshe (Mussa) Peled told Israel Radio yesterday that Israel is developing new weapons capable of knocking out Syrian missiles.

"We are developing, besides the Arrow anti-missile missile, methods of defense and attack which can reach Syrian missiles soon after their launch," Peled said, without elaborating.

Labor MK Ephraim Sneh, a member of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, yesterday called for a preemptive strike against Iran. Army Radio reported.

It quoted him as saying that Israel cannot sit by while the world is being "slacked" in dealing with Iran.

In July, Assistant US Secretary of State Martin Indyk said Iran was working on the Shihab-4, which he called a greater threat than its predecessor.

He said the missile could be deployed in two to five years and pledged that the US would redouble its efforts to curb the transfer of technology Iran needs to develop it.

Iran is believed to have received substantial missile technology from Russia and some from China and North Korea. The Shihab-3 is believed to be based on North Korea's No-Dong ballistic missile.

Shamkhani, a navy rear admiral, denied at a news conference that Iran had received help in developing the missiles.

Shamkhani said Iran would strike back if Israel attacked its nuclear plant in the southern town of Bushehr.

See MISSILE, Page 2

US officials:

'Arafat impediment to peace'

By DANNA HARMAN

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is becoming an "impediment" to the peace process, senior administration officials, including US Vice President Al Gore, have told confidants.

A Gore spokesman said in response that the vice president had never made such a statement. "Absolutely not. He has never even had that thought. It is completely at odds with his beliefs," said the spokesman.

According to sources close to the US administration, Washington now believes that Arafat must make some "real decisions" about what it is he wants in order for the process to move forward.

US President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who as recently as last month were blaming Netanyahu for stalling for time, have reported

US dissuading Arafat from state declaration, Page 2

edly developed a "grudging admiration and understanding," for Netanyahu's bargaining position, and sincerely believe that it is Arafat who is holding up the deal.

Thus, the current push is to bring pressure to bear on the Palestinians and get them to agree to the modified US proposal for troop withdrawal from 15 percent of the West Bank (with 3% set aside as nature reserve) based on reciprocity and security assurances.

Some analysts relate this shift in US position directly to the Monica Lewinsky affair.

"The administration, and perhaps the vice president in particular, cannot afford to antagonize their Jewish supporters now," said Edward Luttwak, a senior fellow at the Center of Strategic and International Studies in Washington DC.

So while Albright had, in the past, been given a green light by the White House to try and pressure Netanyahu into accepting the original US proposal, that permission has now been retracted.

Whatever the reasons for the increased US pressure being applied on the Palestinians, Netanyahu is optimistic that it is working. He told reporters in New York over the weekend that a deal



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara take their boys Yair, left, and Avner for a carousel ride in New York's Central Park on Friday. The family is staying at the nearby Park Lane Hotel, while Netanyahu attends the UN General Assembly's opening session. (AP)

on the second redeployment could be reached within two weeks.

"I am getting a lot of criticism, and have withstood much pressure myself, but I think what we have here is real progress and real achievements," said Netanyahu, adding that much work was quietly going on behind the scenes.

Both Albright and Clinton, who had stepped back from the mediation efforts in recent months, have come back to the negotiating tables with renewed energies.

Albright angered a group of European ministers last week by canceling scheduled meetings with them so she could meet with Netanyahu, and Clinton has reportedly cleared several hours for his talks with the two leaders

this week. Netanyahu told reporters that Clinton's personal attentiveness to the process had nothing to do with "the recent developments," in his personal life.

"I simply think we have reached a situation where there is a need, as there was at Camp David and other crucial times, for US support at the highest level," said Netanyahu.

The Americans, on their part, are also saying that it is now worth their while to increase the direct mediation efforts.

"We feel that Netanyahu has made the decision to move forward with the agreement, and we have no intention of missing out on the momentum," said a top US

official, adding that the Americans believe Netanyahu will survive his internal opposition, and that there will not be a call for early elections.

Therefore, according to the Americans, the main obstacle to the deal is the Palestinian willingness to commit to and comply with the demands placed on them. It is felt that technical issues still under contention, such as defining the exact status of the nature reserve, will fall into place once the main lines of the deal are agreed upon.

The US official added that the problems with moving forward are compounded by those who influence Arafat. The official pointed to players such as the

Egyptians and members of the Labor Party, and claimed they are pressuring Arafat to hold out for a better offer and not take Netanyahu's terms.

In the past, Labor Party members have denied applying any such pressure, as have the Egyptians.

Reaching a deal on the second redeployment is not an end in itself. If and when this agreement is concluded, Netanyahu told reporters, the sides would be moving straight into final-status negotiations - on condition that neither side take unilateral action that would undermine the process.

See ARAFAT, Page 2

Germany prepares for cliffhanger vote

By TOM HENEGHAN

BONN (Reuters) - Tense anticipation gripped Germany yesterday as voters prepared for a cliffhanger election that could see Helmut Kohl, the West's longest-serving leader, become the first post-war chancellor to be voted out of office.

Last-minute polls for today's general election showed it was too close to call. Thanks to Germany's complex election laws, the winner could be Kohl, his Social Democrat challenger Gerhard Schroeder or Kohl's loyal deputy Wolfgang Schauble.

The mood in the country was as split as the polls, with many saying it was time for a change after 16 years of Kohl, but others doubting a left-leaning coalition of SPD and Greens was the best government to lead Germany into the next century.

The safest bet seemed to be for a grand coalition of Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) and the SPD. Even then it was unclear whether Schroeder would lead it or the CDU would come out ahead, opening the door to the party's parliamentary leader Schaeuble to take over as chancellor.

"Many voters find the alternative quite dismal - they don't really care for Schroeder either," the liberal Munich daily *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* wrote.

The two candidates ended their grueling campaigns with large rallies on opposite sides of the country and contrasting messages for the voters.

Kohl winds up campaign, Page 6

"We are the future in Germany," Kohl, 68, told supporters in the Rhineland city of Mainz, where he began his career. "I urge you, give us your votes."

In Berlin, Schroeder told thousands packed into an indoor cycling stadium that Kohl was history.

"Kohl had every chance in the world to solve the country's problems in the last 16 years," he said, pointing to near-record unemployment levels. "But he has failed. With all due respect for his achievements, he deserves to be sent into retirement."

The last opinion polls on Friday showed Schroeder, a slick television performer and at 54 much younger than Kohl, had done what

none of the four previous SPD challengers had managed - to hold onto a lead until the eve of an election.

But that lead was now narrower than the polls' margin of error, after standing as high as 12 points above Kohl soon after Schroeder, the premier of Lower Saxony state, was nominated as the SPD's candidate in March.

The Emnid polling institute had the SPD at 40 percent and the CDU at 39%. Two other polls put Schroeder up to 4.5 points ahead, but with a fifth of voters undecided.

Germany's complex election procedures only add to the unpredictability of the race, because small shifts in local voting patterns can have a decisive influence on the final result in Bonn.

Under this system, no post-war chancellor has been voted out of office. Earlier switches of power came about through shifts in coalitions.

There are 656 seats in parliament, half elected by direct votes for deputies from the 328 constituencies and half picked from party states in the 16 federal states that voters choose with the second ballot they cast today.

But more seats are added if voters choose more deputies from one party than that group wins from the second ballots, which determine the percentage of seats the party

takes in parliament.

In the last election in 1994, the CDU went from a two-seat advantage to a 12-seat majority when it turned out it had won 10 more direct mandates than the second-ballot percentages would have given it.

The SPD also won four unexpected seats, bringing the total number of seats in the last legislature to 672.

The minimum number of seats or percentage of votes needed for a majority is also unknown, because it depends on how many parties clear the minimum 5% hurdle to win seats.

Kohl's current coalition partner, the liberal Free Democrats (FDP), are expected barely to clear the hurdle, while the Greens should make it with perhaps a percentage point more to spare.

The ex-communist Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS) also hopes to return to parliament, even though it polls less than 5%.

It depends on another quirk - a law allowing a party with three directly-elected deputies to take as many seats as its second ballots allow. That amounted to 30 in 1994.

With so many variables, mathematics could determine politics. A grand coalition could emerge if neither the SPD nor the CDU can reach a majority with its smaller partners.

IAI signs Turkish upgrade deal

By STEVE RODAN and DOUGLAS DAVIS

Turkey's defense minister has signed a contract worth \$70 million with Israel Aircraft Industries Ltd. for the upgrade of 48 Turkish Air Force F-5 A/B aircraft over a three-year period.

The program will be carried out entirely in Turkey and construction of the prototype, including aircraft installation, integration and flight-testing will be conducted at the Turkish air force base in Eskisehir.

IAI will serve as the prime contractor. Elbit Systems Ltd. and Singapore Technologies Aerospace as subcontractors.

IAI said the deal was signed Thursday in Turkey.

Executives said the F-5A/B aircraft will be configured as an F-16 lead-in trainer for Turkish F-16 pilots in training. The cockpit layouts, controls, displays and systems will be changed.

IAI is also the prime contractor for the upgrade of the Turkish F-4 aircraft in a contract worth \$641 million. The upgrade program is similar to the Phantom 2000 program completed by IAI for the IAF.

Meanwhile, Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem told two leading London-based, Arabic-language papers at the weekend that he was "tired of answering

questions" about relations with Israel.

The interviews, conducted separately in New York with two Saudi-owned dailies, *Al-Hayat* and *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*, were published in London on Friday.

In an interview with *Al-Hayat*, Cem said Turkish-Israeli relations were being blown out of proportion in order to undermine Ankara's regional standing and its friendships in the Arab world.

Told that "many Arabs view Turkish-Israeli military ties as hostile to the Arabs," Cem said Turkey's agreements with Israel on military training and cooperation between defense industries were similar to those with some 31 countries, including 22 member-states of the Islamic Conference Organization.

"These agreements, and our ties with Israel, have nothing to do with any pact or military treaty and they do not target any country or group of countries," he said.

Cem noted that Turkey conducts its foreign policy on the basis of friendships, "and our foreign relations are not bargaining chips," he said. "We try to bolster our relations with the Arab world, with which we share [a common] history and political concerns important to Turkey."

"I tell the Arabs: Turkey will not agree to constrain its ties with Israel in order to please the Arab world. In the same vein, we will not constrain our ties and our plans to boost links with the Arab world in order to placate Israel. Our friendships are not up for bargaining."

He added: "I am tired of this subject, and I am tired of answering questions about it." On relations with Syria, Cem said Turkey had proposed "a plan of action aimed at boosting ties between us, overcoming our differences, and looking seriously into shared sources of concern and ways of engaging in economic cooperation."

When Syria's then-deputy foreign minister Adnan Omran visited Turkey two months ago, he said, Turkey suggested drafting a declaration of principles that would govern our ties. "We have yet to receive a reply," Cem said. In an interview with *Al Sharq al-Awsat*, Cem denied that Ankara was waging a "campaign" against Damascus. Turkey and Israel are scheduled to hold naval rescue exercises in November - their second joint naval maneuvers.

Egypt and Jordan were invited to participate. Egypt has declined, and Jordan said it would only observe the exercise in the Mediterranean.



NEWS

in brief

2 teens found dead in apparent suicide

Two teenage boys were found dead on Friday in the Lehavim forest in what police said was a double suicide.

Two Lehavim residents discovered the bodies of the teenagers, 18 and 19, in a car with a rubber hose attached to the gas pipe. The teenagers, one of whom was in the army, were friends from their Petah Tikva neighborhood.

They left Petah Tikva on Thursday, leaving behind a suicide note and tape for their parents. The message said they were sick of life and too tired to live.

Amy Klein

Har-Shefi to be sentenced today

The Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court is to pass sentence today on Margalit Har-Shefi for failing to prevent former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination by her friend, Yigal Amir.

Her conviction was the first time an Israeli court had found anyone guilty of not preventing a murder.

During the last hearing, on September 16, Har-Shefi remained silent while prosecutors asked the court to impose the maximum two-year sentence. No character witnesses were called on her behalf. Har-Shefi's lawyer, Sefi Elon, asked that the court impose a suspended sentence and spare her from going to prison. Har-Shefi never had specific information on Amir's plans and did not take him seriously when he talked about killing Rabin, Elon said.

Itim

Frenkel to announce key lending rate today

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel will announce October's key lending rate this afternoon. Some economists are suggesting Frenkel will increase rates, given the ongoing uncertainty in the world's markets and the 0.5 percent rise in the Consumer Price Index last month.

Federation of Chambers of Commerce President Dan Gillerman called on Frenkel to continue cutting interest rates, suggesting that "ceasing the process of reducing interest rates, and even more so increasing them, will be seen as a total lack of confidence in our stability."

Meanwhile, Manufacturers Association President Dan Propper wrote to Prime Minister Netanyahu over the weekend, calling on him to use all available means to prevent a rise in rates.

David Zev Harris

Two SLA soldiers wounded in Lebanon

Two South Lebanese Army soldiers were wounded by mortar fire and two civilians, a 10-year-old boy and 35-year-old woman were wounded in other shelling in south Lebanon on Friday, SLA sources said. The sources said the two SLA soldiers were moderately wounded in a mortar attack on their outpost in the western sector of the security zone.

Earlier on Friday, 10-year-old Hussein Harb was wounded during shelling from Israeli-held south Lebanon, a security source said. He was hit in the Toufah region, a Hizbullah stronghold north of the zone. Hours later, a woman in the southern village of Arab Salim was wounded by mortar fire from inside the zone, a security source said. She was the 51st civilian wounded in south Lebanon since the start of the year.

Reuters

Decision due on Bassiouny's immunity

Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court Judge Abraham Tal is to decide today whether Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny's diplomatic immunity protects him against a civil suit filed against him by belly dancer Shihab Shalom.

Shalom is demanding NIS 1 million, charging that Bassiouny sexually assaulted her.

The State Attorney's Office is claiming that Bassiouny does enjoy diplomatic immunity, and that pursuing this case could adversely affect Israel's relations with Egypt.

Itim

Two die in road accidents

Larissa Leibowitz, 61, of Holon, died Friday at Wolfson Hospital from injuries she suffered in a road accident Wednesday when, while driving down Heine Street, she swerved out of her lane for unknown reasons and hit a commercial vehicle head-on.

Saijar Hussein, 17, from Majd el-Kurum, died yesterday of injuries sustained Friday, when he was hit by a car on the Karmiel-Acre road as he was riding his bicycle.

Itim

Mysterious ad lauds and threatens PM

By HARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — Mixed messages in weekend newspaper ads, including a warning from a shadowy right-wing Jewish group, will greet Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu today as he prepares to meet with some American Jews in New York.

"You have the full support of all Americans, Israelis and Arabs to make peace and security a reality. We hope you make progress on this visit in the days and months ahead," said an ad from the Center for Middle East Peace and Economic Cooperation.

But that was challenged by an ad from a Brooklyn-based group calling itself the "Israel Support Network," which warned Netanyahu that he "may think that the only major threat to his continuation in office derives from the Israeli Nationalist Right that will bring him down over any withdrawal."

He was admonished in the ad to "rethink that premise."

A copy of the ad was faxed to The Jerusalem Post along with a "memo" to Netanyahu that offered a "blessing" if he upholds "God's appointed destiny for Israel and the Jewish people."

But the memo also warned of an unspecified "curse that will befall

the government and the people should the government deviate from the destiny." It was not clear whether the memo was actually sent to the prime minister.

The ad and memo claim that the group represents "the Republicans in Congress, the Fundamentalist Christians and the 2,000,000 right-wing American Jews."

"Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gets an 'A,'" said the Israel Support Network ad. The grade was based, on Netanyahu's remarking last week that he's in no rush to meet Yasser Arafat and on Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's statement that the Israelis and the Palestinians are not on the verge of a pullback agreement.

However, it said, "if the prime minister deviates from the road he has laid out above and makes a withdrawal agreement with Arafat, Clinton or Arafat, this would be looked upon as a fundamental breach of trust that the Israel Support Network [has] placed in him."

The New York Post, which is publishing the ad today, refused to identify who had paid for it. Netanyahu is to meet today with the Presidents' Conference and the New York Jewish Community Relations Council, then visit the Central Synagogue.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather

JACK EPSTEIN

The funeral will take place on Monday, September 28, 1998, in Herzliya.

US seeks to dissuade Arafat from declaring independence

By MILLE KUTTLER

WASHINGTON — Trying to advance to a new Israeli-Palestinian agreement, the US administration publicly cautioned Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat on Friday against voicing plans to declare a state.

Doing so, the administration indicated, could jeopardize territorial gains the PA stands to make from an IDF redeployment in the West Bank.

The message came amid indications that a redeployment deal is in the works and that the differences between the sides are narrowing.

A senior US official said Israel, the Palestinians and Washington have been "fleshing out" the ideas the US presented them earlier this year for advancing the peace process, and are now at the point

of putting in writing the eventual agreement.

"We've moved from concepts to texts," he said.

The warning to Arafat hinted that with the sides as close as ever, one wrong move, and a public one at that, could upset the delicate balance the US is trying to protect.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright met for most of Friday at the State Department with leading officials of Arab governments, seeking assurances of their support for an eventual deal. She was scheduled to be back in New York last night for separate discussions with Netanyahu and Arafat.

State Department Spokesman James Rubin said during a briefing that declaring a state is a unilateral action that would prejudice the outcome of negotiations, and that "on this basis, we would oppose it."

Arafat is to address the UN tomorrow. President Bill Clinton is scheduled to meet at the White House tomorrow morning with Netanyahu, before Netanyahu's return to Israel for Yom Kippur, an Israeli embassy official said. Clinton will also host Arafat later this week.

The US's warnings to Arafat constituted a deliberate push, US officials said, to dissuade him from using his UN appearance to announce that he will declare a Palestinian state when the five-year interim accords expire in May.

The senior US official told reporters that in her meetings, Albright was very "clear-cut" in telling the Arab leaders — Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah, Lebanese premier Rafik Hariri, and foreign ministers Amr Moussa of Egypt, Farouk Shara of Syria and Ahmed

Attaf of Algeria — that "at this particular moment, what's important is to try to get an agreement that in its fulfillment would result in more territory passing from Israeli control to Palestinian control."

"And that is far more important for Palestinian interests, because it's a tangible territory, [rather] than declarations," he said.

"At this time, when we're trying to get an agreement, it is very important for both sides to avoid unilateral actions, or statements of intent about unilateral actions," he said.

Abdallah met with Clinton Friday, with the two sides issuing a statement declaring that the Saudis were lending their "full support" to the US efforts to achieve an Israeli-Palestinian breakthrough and would support whatever deal the Palestinians reached.

In their talks with Albright, Hariri and Shara sought immediate US help in advancing the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese negotiating tracks, frozen since early 1996.

But Albright emphasized that while the US "would move quickly" to advance the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, it would have to await the conclusion of an Israeli-Palestinian agreement, because that is where "our energies are focused," he added. For that reason, US envoy Dennis Ross and Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk would not travel to the region to advance the other tracks until after the redeployment agreement is attained, the official said. Following his meeting with Albright, Shara had told reporters that the US officials plan to travel to the region soon.

PA finance minister accused of embezzling funds

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED KALIL

A PLO-aligned magazine has accused Palestinian Authority Finance Minister Mohammed Zuhdi Nashashibi of embezzling PA funds.

The attack on Nashashibi came from Raymond Tawil, owner of the Jerusalem-based *Al Awda* magazine and mother-in-law of PA Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Tawil accused Nashashibi of using PA money to support his family in a five-star hotel in Gaza and building a huge home in Amman.

"Why does Nashashibi, who returned to Palestine five years ago, stay with his family at the five-star Palestine Hotel at the Gaza beach and build a grand palace in Amman?" wrote *Al Awda* editor Ibrahim Karaneen.

"If this is true, we, who stay in Jerusalem, have a right to see who lives in a hotel in the homeland and builds a great palace in Amman and [behaves] as a nomad who doesn't consider his homeland except as a way station."

Palestinian sources said Tawil met with Arafat and discussed her battle with Nashashibi. She accused Nashashibi's daughter, Abba, director of the Finance Ministry's budget department, of threatening her.

Tawil told Arafat that unless he intervenes, she will emigrate to France, the sources said.

The sources did not say how much money *Al Awda* is owed by the PA.

Before the Oslo agreement in 1993, *Al Awda* was often closed by Israeli authorities for serving as a mouthpiece for Arafat.

Nashashibi could not be reached for comment.



Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and former prime minister Shimon Peres pose with Rector professor Willy Legros, of the University of Liege, after receiving the Doctor Honoris Causa insignia Friday in Liege, Belgium. The university honored them for their work in securing the Oslo Accords. (AP)

Arafat asserts right to declare state

Heading into a diplomatic showdown with Israel at the United Nations, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat said Friday he had the "sacred right" to declare a state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in May and appealed to the world to help him.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had warned only a day earlier that such a declaration would lead to a "complete collapse" of Mideast peacemaking and that Israel would retaliate.

During a stopover in Liege, Belgium, the Palestinian leader said he would prefer a negotiated settlement with Israel by May 4, the day the five-year interim period of Palestinian autonomy ends. After that date, Arafat said he would make use of his "sacred right" to declare statehood and would seek the world's help.

"We will look with hope and trust to our friends and peace-loving nations of the international community to support the

Palestinian people in their declaration of an independent state on May 4, 1999," Arafat said in his Liege speech, distributed by the Palestinian news agency Wafa.

Addressing Israeli fears, Arafat also said the state would seek peaceful relations with its neighbors and would not react to provocations unless its security or vital interests were harmed.

Arafat's spokesman, Nabil Abu Rudeneh, told the Voice of Palestine radio that the Palestinian

leader will also raise the statehood issue in his speech before the United Nations on Monday and seek world support.

Many countries are expected to recognize a Palestinian state, and Netanyahu has been trying to thwart the Palestinian campaign for international backing.

In Israel, Arafat's call prompted demands that Netanyahu break off the negotiations with the Palestinians on a troop withdrawal.

Shalom: Gov't will reconsider peace process if Arafat declares state

By LIAT COLLINS

If Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat announces in his UN speech his intention to establish an independent Palestinian state in May 1999, the government would have to reconsider the peace process with the Palestinians, Science Minister Shalom, who acts as liaison between the cabinet and the Knesset, said yesterday.

He said the declaration of intent would be a blatant violation of the Oslo Accords and is likely to revive the cycle of violence in the region.

MK Uzi Landau (Likud), chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, called on the prime minister to immediately stop the talks with the Palestinians on the further redeployments and

instead consider an alternative to Oslo.

"There is no point in talking about Israeli concessions in the process at a time when Arafat is declaring that he will violate the accords and announce a Palestinian state," Landau said. "Arafat is throwing in the air a trial balloon to test the government's reactions when he crosses red lines."

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, who chairs the Likud Secretariat, criticized Labor MKs Shimon Peres and Yossi Beilin for saying there is a need for a Palestinian state.

Matza said that expressing support for Arafat and cooperating with him at the current time "harms the Israeli effort to thwart the creation of a Palestinian state, which will act as a terror base against Israeli citizens."

completely derail the awaited final-status negotiations.

Albright was scheduled to meet with Arafat in New York and to hold a second meeting with Netanyahu last night in order, partly, to discuss this matter.

"I can't imagine that someone seriously thinks a stable agreement can be reached with unilateral pro-

nouncements," said Netanyahu, "and it is my hope that Arafat will not take this step [of declaring statehood] but will go into negotiations with us as planned."

Netanyahu is to meet with Clinton tomorrow, after which he will hold a press conference. He will return to Israel before the start of Yom Kippur on Tuesday evening.

ARAFAT

Continued from Page 1

Both the Americans and the Israelis have been warning Arafat not to mention his intention to declare a state during his UN speech tomorrow, saying that such a unilateral declaration would

MISSILE

Continued from Page 1

"We'll certainly respond firmly to any Israeli attack or aggression in a manner more severe than one can imagine, and we have the capability," Shamkhani said. "The most obvious, but only the minimum, is the Shihab-3."

Shamkhani would not say how many missiles Iran possessed but indicated that Iran could produce as many as it needed.

Iran says the Shihab-3 can carry a one-ton warhead at a cruising altitude of 250 kilometers above sea level.

US and Israeli officials have expressed concern about the missile, because it can hit Israel and US troops stationed in Saudi Arabia.

Iranian officials have said the missile is only for defense and that they are free to strengthen their armed forces.

In other developments, Shamkhani said military exercises near the Afghan border will start within a week. The exercises, in which more than 200,000 soldiers will participate, come amid growing demands for vengeance against the Taliban by Iranians.

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Jordan to lobby US over West Bank market access

AMMAN (Reuters) - Jordanian Prime Minister Fayez Tarwanah said yesterday he would soon hold talks with US officials in Washington on tackling what he called Israeli obstacles hindering expanding trade exchanges with Palestinian self-rule areas.

"This is a very serious matter, and I want to go and put it very very bluntly in Washington," Tarwanah said.

He did not say when he was heading to Washington, but officials expect the visit to take place next week.

Tarwanah would first visit King Hussein at his bedside at Mayo

Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, where he has been undergoing cancer treatment since July.

Jordan will lobby US officials to exert more pressure on Israel to ease administrative and tariff and non-tariff barriers to the flow of its goods to the West Bank market, Tarwanah said.

He said the trade issue with the West Bank market was the focus of his talks with senior administration officials.

Jordan's business community bitterly complains that Israel wants to keep its grip on the lucrative \$2.5 billion plus annual Palestinian market. Officials have rallied behind busi-

ness complaints that Israel's unreadiness to give access to the West Bank market, by measures they say are blatant protectionism, has denied the country a major dividend from its peace treaty with Israel.

The kingdom, reeling under a downturn in economic growth and facing sluggish exports, hopes a slice of the annual Palestinian market would rejuvenate stagnant industrial capacity.

Jordan last week agreed with the Palestinians to expand trade and coordinate positions to help the kingdom negotiate better terms with Israel over more trade access to the territories.

Industrialists say Jordan has a competitive edge over Israel in exporting a whole range of goods to the Palestinian market - such as construction materials, cement and canned foodstuffs.

Officials say streamlining administrative procedures, easing security checks and reducing handling fees and tariffs could allow exports to the Palestinian market to reach an estimated \$200-\$300 million annually.

They say resolving these issues will be a key test of Israel's desire for peace and a boost to a peace treaty, which many Jordanians say are disappointed with its lack of tangible benefits.

Analyst alarmed about Israeli goods in Arab states

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON. - A leading Arab commentator has expressed alarm over reports that unnamed Arab states are acting as "conduits" for Israeli goods arriving in Saudi Arabia.

Writing in the Bahraini daily *Akhbar al-Khaleej*, Assayed Zahra said he was alarmed that Israeli goods have been making their way to Saudi markets, even though the Arab boycott officially remains in place.

He was also concerned about remarks by the head of the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry that some Arab countries are serving as conduits for the Israeli products.

"The Saudi official presumably has information confirming that some Arab countries are colluding with Israel to give it access to Arab markets," wrote Zahra.

"It had previously been assumed that only European or US-based firms were involved in smuggling Israeli goods to the Arab world."

"No one had expected Arab states to volunteer to do the job for Israel," he added.

If a certain Arab country wants to establish diplomatic ties or forge economic links with Israel, that is its business - "even though it is not exactly its business alone, given the stalled peace process and pertinent Arab resolutions. But for an Arab country to act as a self-styled agent for Israeli firms and deceive other Arab countries, this is not at all a matter that concerns this country alone."

"The trouble," added Zahra, "is that one does not know who to turn to in such cases."

The Arab League, he lamented, "has all but forgotten about the Arab trade boycott of Israel."

In the meantime, Hebrew University economist Ephraim Kleiman said clandestine trade to Arab countries is far less than thought. Kleiman said "most Israeli goods that find their way into Arab hands do so via third markets."



Waste recovery
Canadian Ambassador David Berger (right) and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan (second from right) inspect a piece of waste recovered by divers off the beach in Caesarea.
(Yael Somekh/Israel Sun)

ZOA accuses Ben & Jerry's of siding with Syria

By Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) has condemned the decision by Ben & Jerry's to cancel a contract with Mei Eden, a mineral water company based in the Golan Heights.

The ZOA accused the ice cream company of succumbing to Arab pressure.

ZOA National President Morton A. Klein wrote that by boycotting the Golan, Ben & Jerry's is deciding that Syria is right and Israel is wrong.

"Ben & Jerry's is venturing down a 'rocky road' by delving into historical areas with which it is obviously unfamiliar and endorsing the historical revisionism of Arab propagandists who falsely claim that the Golan belongs to Syria," Klein wrote.

Ben & Jerry's spokesman Lee Holden said this week that the company discussed the situation with Avi Zinger, the owner of the Ben & Jerry's franchise in Israel.

Holden denied that the company was pressured into cancelling the water contract.

"This was a decision he made independently, and we of course discussed the issue with him, and suggested he do whatever he felt is best for his business in Israel," Holden said from company headquarters in South Burlington, Vermont.

Holden said the company did not believe Zinger intended to make any political statement.

But, he added, "we understand his action, though very limited, violates the spirit of the peace process and he had no intention of doing that or making a statement

to that effect."

Local shoppers didn't seem to be aware of the controversy, and once told, didn't seem to be bothered.

"I buy ice cream for the taste not for where they buy their water from," customer Efraim Ciobotara

told a reporter yesterday.

Shi Davidi contributed to this report

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Alternative medicine cracks top 10 career list

By JUDY SEGEL

Complementary medicine has – for the first time – reached the top 10 in career preferences among adults aged 19 to 26, according to the Hadassah Career Counseling Institute.

A survey of 992 men and women comprising a representative sample listed working in a field of complementary medicine as the tenth most-popular choice.

The listing for men was, in this order: business administration, computers, economics and accounting, industrial engineering and management, electronic engineering, law, communications, psychology, engineering and conventional medicine.

Women preferred communications, design, business administration, psychology, computers, economics and accounting, law, social work, complementary medicine and education.

Institute director Dr. Yitzhak Garti said the survey reflected the personal hopes of those questioned about a preferred profession, but in actuality people don't always succeed in carrying them out.

There are no licensing procedures for complementary medicine techniques here, and certain limitations have been set by the Health Ministry only for practitioners of acupuncture, Garti said.

As it is an invasive procedure, practitioners must work "under the supervision of a physician."

But although this rule in the books, ministry associate director-general Boaz Lev conceded yesterday that he didn't know to what extent this restriction is being observed in the field.

"I've appointed a committee to determine what conditions can be set for the practice of acupuncture," Lev said.

The other fields – from homeopathy, iridology and shiatsu to "healing," aromatherapy and auriculotherapy – are very difficult to supervise, he added, "but when we get through acupuncture, we'll take a look at the others. In any case, we are not now considering the licensing of these alternative practitioners."

A decade ago, a public commission appointed by the Health Ministry and headed by retired Supreme Court justice Menahem Elon published its recommendations on the practice of complementary medicine.

Almost none of the very liberal recommendations was implemented,

as the main one – that no licensing would be required and practitioners would be liable for civil suits if they harmed anyone – aroused much opposition among physicians.

Lev said complementary medicine practitioners are not licensed in most countries, and it was hard to learn from others' experience because the culture – especially consumerism and compliance to the law – is very different here.

The ministry official noted that there have been "very few" malpractice suits against complementary practitioners, perhaps because many people go to them knowing that they have to take some responsibility for themselves and see conventional doctors first.

There is also the placebo effect, which makes many patients feel better whether the treatment actually changed their physical condition or not.

"The main thing we have to do is educate the public to take responsibility for their health and not to endanger themselves by going to complementary medicine practitioners before a physician examines them."



Bikers' rally

Cyclists in Tel Aviv demonstrate at Kikar Rabin on Friday for the introduction of lanes especially for cyclists. They also rode through the streets, singing and chanting on behalf of the cause. The cyclists argue that the lanes would reduce traffic accidents.

(Yael Somech/Israel Sun)

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Paula Jones offers Clinton \$1m. settlement

WASHINGTON (AP) — Paula Jones has offered to settle her sexual harassment lawsuit against President Bill Clinton for \$1 million and Clinton's attorney responded with a \$500,000 counteroffer, legal sources said Friday.

The latest revival of settlement talks was initiated by the Jones side earlier this month and Clinton lawyer Robert Bennett responded within the last several days, said the sources, who would not be identified by name.

Discussions are continuing, said one source, who described the talks as "negotiations." While Jones has insisted on an apology in the past, she would not demand one as part of a settlement now, a source said.

One of Jones's attorneys, John Whitehead of the Rutherford Institute, would not comment on the talks but said the former Arkansas state worker does not need an apology now because "she's been vindicated" by Clinton's admissions of improper sexual conduct with Monica Lewinsky.

And she would be vindicated further, he said, if Clinton pays money to settle the case.

"It is an admission if you pay money that the case had merit," Whitehead said.

Whitehead said Jones' lawyers reopened discussions in part because Clinton faces new legal troubles with looming House

impeachment proceedings.

A legal source familiar with back-and-forth correspondence said Jones's lawyers wrote Bennett two weeks ago proposing a nonnegotiable \$1 million settlement stipulating that Clinton acknowledges no wrongdoing.

The proposal had a deadline, but this source declined to elaborate. Clinton's team replied with a letter, the source said, neither accepting nor declining the offer but essentially putting Jones on hold.

Bennett then made his counteroffer by telephone.

Jones contends that Clinton, while governor of Arkansas, asked her to perform a sex act in a Little Rock, Arkansas hotel room in 1991.

Meanwhile, the House Judiciary Committee agreed to release audio tapes that Linda Tripp made of her conversations with Lewinsky, as Republicans and Democrats vied for political position in advance of next month's vote on a formal impeachment inquiry.

In a day-long session Friday behind closed doors, the panel also agreed over objections of some Democrats to make public thousands of pages of still-secret documents that independent counsel Kenneth Starr gathered as part of his eight-month sex-and-cover-up probe relating to Clinton's affair with Lewinsky.

Hurricane Georges pounds Florida

By TRACY FIELDS

KEY WEST, Florida (AP) — Hurricane Georges rumbled up the Gulf of Mexico yesterday, leaving a trail of sunken houseboats, ruined buildings and tangled power lines along the soggy and windswept Florida Keys.

After Georges killed some 300 people in the Caribbean, no hurricane-related deaths were reported in South Florida. The hurricane skirted the Miami area and hit hardest in the lower Keys, where the full extent of the damage was not known.

It was a far cry from the devastation Georges wreaked across the Caribbean — 210 people dead, 100,000 homeless and 90 percent of banana and other plantations destroyed in the Dominican Republic; 87 deaths in Haiti; extensive damage in Cuba, Puerto Rico, St. Kitts and Nevis.

Forecasters said the storm — one of four hurricanes wheeling simultaneously in southern waters — was expected to hit the northern Gulf Coast last night. The National Weather Service warned everyone between Morgan City, Louisiana, and St. Marks, Florida, to take precautions.

Early yesterday, Georges was moving at about 16 kph on a west-northwesterly path over the Gulf. The storm, with top sustained winds of 169 kph, was centered at 25.9 north latitude and 85.1 west longitude, about 668 kilometers southeast of New Orleans. Some strengthening was possible throughout the day.

In anticipation, Gov. Jeb Bush declared a state of emergency in Alabama, and residents of the Florida panhandle prepared for a fourth brush with a hurricane in four years. Earl hit the area earlier this month.



Kevin Bonoyer of Marathon, Florida, surveys the damage done to his home by Hurricane Georges on Friday. (AP)

Authorities ordered 183,000 panhandle residents to leave their homes Friday. Altogether, evacuation orders affected 1.4 million people, including 500,000 in the Tampa Bay area, which expected to feel some of Georges' wrath as the storm marched north.

Tropical storm warning for all of the West coast of the Florida Keys was discontinued.

"We prepared for the worst, hoped for the best and the best that could have happened," said Hillsborough County Administrator Dan Kleiman. "If it had taken a turn to the east, the

devastation in the Tampa Bay area would have been significant."

The hurricane hit the Keys with 185 kph gusts and wasted away the land known as Margartaville.

A state delegation headed by Lt. Gov. Buddy McKay set out for Key West, but turned back half way

down US Highway 1 because of high winds.

In the Keys, power was out, trees were down, many people were without water, and roads and yards were littered with coconuts and debris. Mobile home parks were flooded, and roads were left impassable.

Nigerian ethnic leader found beheaded

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — The severed head of a tribal chief was found floating in a river in southwestern Nigeria hours after he was abducted by members of a rival group, a newspaper reported Friday.

Assailants from the Ijaw ethnic group stormed the palace of Hailfort Imani, leader of the Ifaje ethnic group, the *Vanguard* newspaper reported.

Imani's head was found in a river near his residence in Ondo State, according to witnesses. Police said they were searching for four other abducted elders.

Imani's death comes after several days of fighting between the rival groups over disputed land. On Wednesday, police said 23 had been killed in recent fighting.

Imani was the traditional leader of a community that belongs to the Yoruba ethnic group, one of the largest and most influential in Nigeria.

More dead in Kosovo

PRISTINA, Serbia (Reuters) — Eight people died yesterday in fighting in the Drenica region of central Kosovo, according to the ethnic Albanian Kosovo Information Center (KIC).

Serb sources reported that on Friday five policemen died when their vehicle hit a mine and two others were killed in a rebel attack.

The sources also said that low intensity clashes in the Drenica region ended by early afternoon after Serb police repelled the rebel attacks.

In a separate report, the KIC said 68 people were killed in the three-day Serb offensive on villages around Mount Cicavica, northwest of Kosovo's capital Pristina.

Researchers close to cure for colds and flu

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Could there be a cure out there not just for the common cold, but for the miseries of flu?

Researchers at several companies reported this weekend on a drug that might stop the most common cold virus in its tracks, drugs that ease the miseries of flu, and even drugs that can stop flu from infecting people. One drug is even said to kill anthrax.

The scientists have told a meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in San Diego that there is finally hope for victims of flu, which not only causes a wretched week or two of headaches, coughing and sneezing, but kills thousands every year.

Glaxo Wellcome says its drug Relenza, shown last year to shorten a flu attack by one day, can be used almost as a vaccine against the virus.

Tests on college students showed Relenza, known generically as zanamivir, could reduce flu risk by 67 percent. Eleven students who used Relenza, or 2%, caught a flu virus sweeping their campus, while the 34 people, or 6%, who did not take the drug caught the flu.

The drug comes in the form of a powder and is inhaled using a pocket-sized puffer device.

Russian deputy PM resigns

By ALASTAIR MACDONALD

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Russia seemed as far as ever from sorting out its economic chaos yesterday.

A former deputy premier who walked out on Friday after just nine days in office lambasted his erstwhile colleagues and said cash from the International Monetary Fund would be held up for months as Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov dithers over strategy between leftist and liberal options.

Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov met the head of the main trade union body and agreed on tactics for a nationwide day of protest on October 7. They are seeking months of overdue wages and pensions and want President Boris Yeltsin to resign.

Unpaid scientists and research workers announced plans to seal off main roads into Moscow, and a newspaper said that one army garrison, pushed to the brink by wage delays and lack of food, was ready to block the Trans-Siberian railway with tanks.

"The government is in crisis," said the business newspaper

Kommersant-Daily following centrist Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Shokhin's decision to walk out on the government after Primakov re-appointed liberal Finance Minister Mikhail Zadornov.

Shokhin bitterly criticized Zadornov, accusing him of a key role in the effective debt default and ruble devaluation launched by the last government on August 17, and also hit out at Primakov for trying to fuse conflicting political interests.

"When they invited me into the government they clearly intended to use me as window dressing for the West, and so there was no question of my having any influence in drafting the government program," he told a news conference.

Primakov is still struggling to form a cabinet with broad support to combat the crisis. He was confirmed in office two weeks ago by the Communist-led parliament after it forced Yeltsin to drop a bid to install ex-premier Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The former foreign minister has assured the West that market

reforms will go on tempered with aid for industry and the poor.

He called Shokhin's walkout "irresponsible," but said his government, toward which the communists have also been cooling rapidly, would not be weakened by it.

Yet 24 hours later there was still no word on who might take over Shokhin's duties as deputy premier in charge of finance and negotiations with international creditors.

Shokhin himself said his departure could favor communist First Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Maslyukov, once head of Soviet planning who has been pushing for aid to industry, or prompt Primakov to add another liberal to his handful of deputies.

Whatever happens, Primakov seems no nearer resolving fundamental differences in policy approach between free market liberals like Zadornov, who favor a tighter money policy, and Maslyukov and new central bank chief Viktor Geraschenko, who play down the risks of inflation and favor printing cash to pay off ruble debts and refloat the paralyzed banking system.

Japan MPs agree on bank reform

TOKYO (Reuters) — Japan's ruling party and main opposition groups agreed yesterday to nationalize an ailing major bank and allow public money to be used to help the troubled banking sector.

The broad agreement — by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and opposition Democratic Party and Heiwa Kaikaku group — is expected to clear the way for the passage of financial sector bills through parliament by October 7.

The opposition had tried hard to push a "hard landing" scenario for the nation's battered banks, blocking any injection of public funds to those banks suspected of being insolvent.

But Democratic leader Naoto Kan told the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* newspaper that "it was agreed that it was acceptable in principle to debate ways to restructure banks without declaring them insolvent," including using taxpayers' money.

A week ago, the parties had appeared to reach a similar deal to nationalize the troubled Long-Term

Credit Bank of Japan Ltd (LTCB), strip the Finance Ministry of its financial policy-making powers and replace a 13 trillion yen (\$97.0 billion) fund set up to recapitalize banks with another scheme.

But last week's agreement unraveled as it became clear the government still wanted to inject public funds into LTCB and go ahead with a planned merger with Sumitomo Trust & Banking Co Ltd.

The new plan agrees to nationalize the LTCB but still leaves open the possibility for a merger with Sumitomo Trust after LTCB has restructured itself.

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Kohl winds up campaign riddled with blunders

By RICHARD MEARES

MAINZ, Germany (Reuters) — German chancellor and veteran vote-winner Helmut Kohl on Friday addressed his final rally in a campaign riddled with blunders — and must now wait for voters to decide today if his 16-year reign is over.

If his Christian Democrats (CDU) lose, some are sure to say it is because of the unpopular Kohl, others that it was despite him.

In the hours before the polls were due to open, he kept up his defiant show of optimism despite opinion polls that suggest the longest serving chancellor this century, now 86, may finally be heading into history.

"We are the future in Germany," he told thousands of people crammed into the cathedral square in Mainz on Friday night. "Give us your votes."

The rally in Mainz, a small southwestern city on the Rhine, was a return to home turf for Kohl at the

end of a campaign during which he has grown hoarse addressing thousands of people.

Particularly in eastern Germany, where soaring joblessness has used up the goodwill Kohl won for reunification, he had to dodge eggs thrown at him and turn up the loudspeakers to drown out the hecklers.

In every city his message was much the same.

The economy is getting better, the jobs are coming back — so stick with trusted world statesman Kohl rather than risk a government led by Social Democrat rival Gerhard Schröder that could include leftists and radical environmentalists.

But it is off the podium that Kohl and his CDU have faced the most trouble getting their message across.

Kohl's party lieutenants almost grew hoarse themselves trying to limit the damage from a series of blunders.

"No one does everything right. We could have spared ourselves

one or other of our internal questions," conceded campaign manager Peter Hintze. "These have irritated voters."

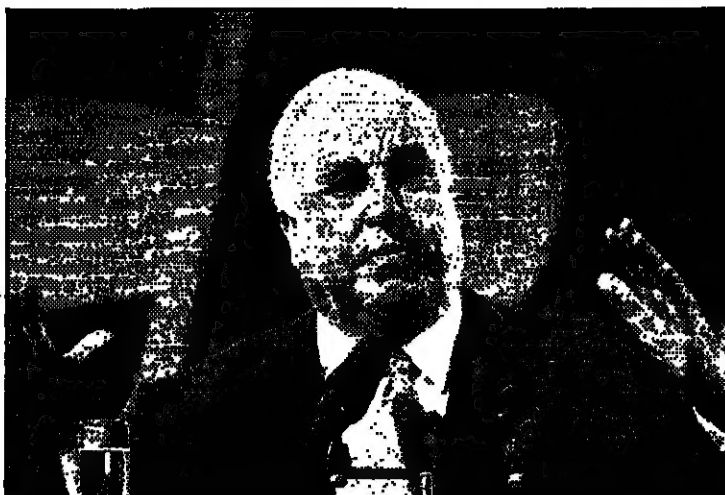
While Schröder's campaign has been widely acclaimed for its slickness and party unity, the CDU has appeared divided and confused.

In simultaneous newspaper interviews, Kohl said he would serve out a full four-year term if he won while his preferred successor Wolfgang Schäuble, Germany's most popular politician, said he might not.

Many commentators scented divisions between Kohl and CDU leaders who thought they stood a better chance without him.

Juergen Falter, a political scientist at Mainz University, said the CDU's main mistake was to assume party chairman Oskar Lafontaine, a left-winger thrashed by Kohl in 1990, would be chosen to face him again.

He said the CDU had based its campaign on a Left-Right ideological war — and was disastrously



German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his opponent Gerhard Schröder address rallies on Friday, the last day of campaigning before the German general election.

wrong-footed when the centrist, business-friendly Schröder won the nomination.

Kohl got a vital boost from a clear win by his sister party, the Christian Social Union, in a Bavarian state

election two weeks ago.

But then a minister said the CDU would raise the VAT, bringing unwanted headlines and forcing a denial.

"They were hoping for a break-

through after Bavaria. But they had not reckoned with their string of own goals carrying on," wrote Focus magazine.

Many commentators say a muddled message has been accompa-

nied by lackluster publicity.

But some speculate Schröder's campaign may have been just a bit too slick and professional while Kohl marched on with his earthy "am one of you" image.

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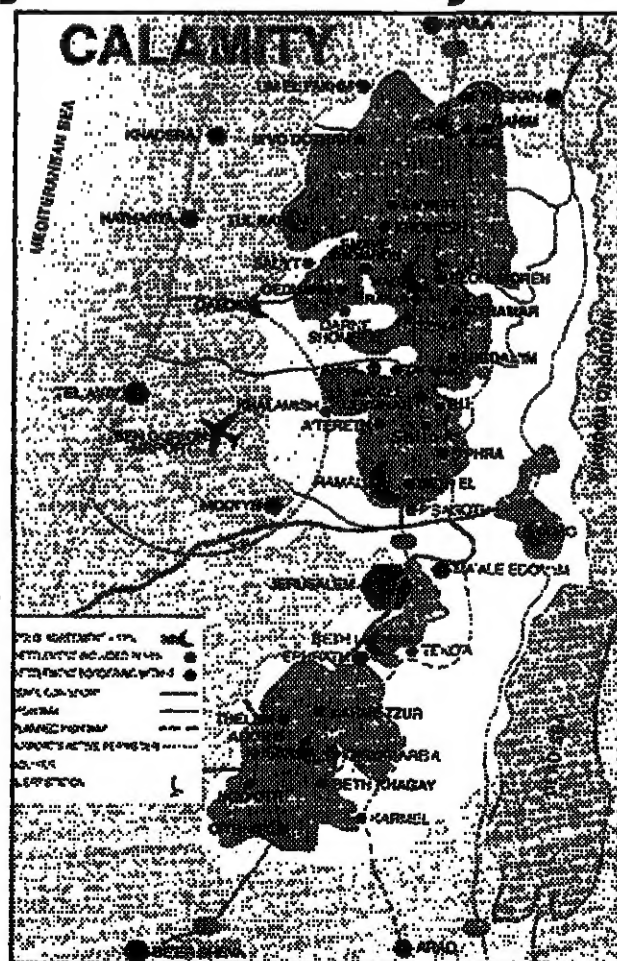
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Channel 1 draws Bar-Lev's line

By BARRY DAVIS

To most Israelis over the age of 35, Haim Bar-Lev is the man who built "the famous line of defense" along the Suez Canal. But, to those who served with him, Bar-Lev is best remembered for his tranquil temperament and authoritative air – even in the most tempestuous of circumstances.

Channel 1 reviews the life of the late military leader in a two-part profile (tonight at 9:30 and Wednesday at 9:05 p.m.).

As chief of general staff from 1968 to 1972, Bar-Lev was responsible for IDF operations in the aftermath of the Six Day War when Egypt and Syria were doing their utmost to turn the tables on Israel following their ignominious defeat. "Israel's great luck was that Bar-Lev was chief of general staff during the War of Attrition," says Maj. Gen. (res.) Shlomo (Chich) Lahat. Leading military historian Meir Pa'il adds: "He was the best field commander the IDF ever had" – although supporters of Ariel Sharon might contest the latter.

Bar-Lev's leadership qualities became apparent while he was at the Mivke Yisrael agricultural high school (which he joined shortly after immigrating from Zagreb), and then when he was placed in command of a unit in the War of Independence.

The documentary is peppered with the customary archival photographs one would expect to see in a profile of someone of Bar-Lev's generation and profession – Bar-Lev with Ben-Gurion, Bar-Lev studying military maps with Dayan and Rabin, etc. But the most striking feature of the pictures is that Bar-Lev always seems to be perfectly at ease, and totally in control.

The man, it seems, was never flustered. During the Six Day War, while most of the country's military and political leaders were jostling for position in front of the cameras at the Western Wall, deputy chief of staff Bar-Lev was heading south to be with his fellow generals as they completed the conquest of the Sinai peninsula.

And yet, Lahat says that Bar-Lev was so enthused by the taking of the Western Wall that he kissed every-

one in sight: "I must say, I've had better kisses in my time." Bar-Lev is quoted as saying as he joins the army's drive for the Suez Canal.

Bar-Lev was held in high esteem by his military contemporaries. In fact, during the Six Day War, then-OC northern command David Elazar insisted on receiving the deputy chief of staff's blessing before mounting the counter offensive in the Golan Heights ordered by then chief of staff Yitzhak Rabin. Throughout the documentary, one hears Bar-Lev's inimitably measured tones plotting a rock-steady course through his lifetime achievements. Most of the interviewees produced similar anecdotes about Bar-Lev. "He talked slowly, but moved fast," says President Ezer Weizman about the man who pipped him for the position of chief of staff in 1968.

In 1972, Bar-Lev vacated the chief of staff's office and joined Golda Meir's government as minister of industry and trade. But it seems that Bar-Lev wasn't entirely suited to his new profession: "Haim wasn't a politician, but when he did a job he always did his best," states former Mossad head Gen. Zvi Zamir.

Even as a senior member of the government, Bar-Lev maintained a distinctly individual style. The normally reserved Shimon Peres chuckles freely as he tells how Bar-Lev would produce a hunting knife at Cabinet meetings and quietly but deftly prepare a perfectly diced salad from the fruit on the table. His colleagues would patiently wait for him to complete the task before settling down to discuss business.

But, above all, Bar-Lev was a proud man with a sense of duty and order. His daughter Zohar tells us that after her father quit his post as ambassador to Russia in 1994, succumbing to a degenerative muscular disease and returning to Israel, he apologized to her for being confined to a wheelchair.

Although it is to be expected that interviewees in such profiles compete for the privilege of bestowing the highest accolade on the subject – particularly if he is no longer alive – viewers of this profile will be convinced that the hero in question was just that.



Haim Bar-Lev – "The best field commander the IDF ever had."

(David Rubinger)

A noisy testament to teen angst

Sabra Sounds



By Shai Tsur

Since it formed three years ago, the band Hayehudim has slowly carved a niche for itself in Israeli rock. While most Israeli musicians generally stick to the middle of the road, the members of Hayehudim wallow in

HAYEHUDIM
Hayehudim
(Bed Arzi)ODED AMAR
Oded Menashe
(NMC)

downer lyrics and a thrashing, hard-rock sound.

This has led them to become local critics' darlings and has given them a rabid cult following without the benefit of radio airplay. As a result, the band's debut album recently went gold.

Unfortunately, none of this makes the band particularly listenable.

Hayehudim's eponymous follow-up disc continues the dissonant hard-rock line.

The husband-and-wife team of Tom Petrover and Orit Shahaf makes up the core of the band. Lyricist Petrover writes in a faux Jim Morrison style. He dwells on heavy, meaning-of-life stuff, occasionally throwing out gestures such as addressing the Deity on "The Time of God" to ask why there is so much religious fanaticism in the world.

Many of the songs feature the theme of isolation. On "A Drop in the Ocean" Petrover writes about being a small and meaningless entity swept in the tides of fate. In "In the Air" the same idea reappears, although this time the metaphor is that of a leaf blown by the wind.

Musically, the album is quite irritating. The band certainly has a singular sound, combining the worst elements of heavy metal and grunge into a muddy mix. While there is nothing wrong with noise rock per se, it needs an interesting structure to work. Hayehudim welds threadbare Pearl Jam riffs to Petrover and Shahaf's screaming. Uninteresting? Yes. Pain-inducing? You bet.

Why, then, is the band so well-regarded?

It might be that whatever magic the band has does not show up well on an album. Critics have raved about the power of Hayehudim's live shows, but the energy of its performances is lacking here.

On the other hand, it may simply be a youth thing. If anything, the success of Hayehudim stands as a testament to the universality of teen angst. The bulk of the band's fan base comes from the under-20 crowd, a fact which should not come as any great surprise. High-

schoolers around the world have proven that they need music like this, the overblown rock gestures and the pseudo-profundity.

Luckily, Israeli teens who feel that no one understands them have Petrover & Co. to provide them with solace. For those of us for whom army service is a fading memory, Hayehudim are likely to provide little more than a headache.

SPEAKING of youth issues, one of the most disturbing phenomena in Israeli culture is the growing power of the Children's Channel on cable.

Critics who favor quality youth television have repeatedly taken Channel 6 to task for its inane programming presented by tightly clad models and other beautiful people.

The hosts on the Children's Channel present two fundamental problems.

One is the blatant and rather icky use of sex to capture the attention of older children. The other is an implied message that if you want to be happy, you have to look like an extra from *Ramat Aviv Gimmel*.

In addition to their television gigs, these plastic people have begun to take over music as well. Michael Yanai and Dana Dvotin



Oded Menashe

have both released music albums in the last year. Yael Bar-Zohar, the buxomest and most alluringly dressed of the lot, also has an album in the works.

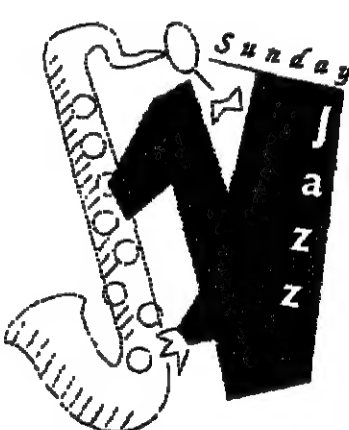
The most recent Children's Channel alumnus to lift the music world is Oded Menashe. His *Oded Amar* ("Oded Said") presents 10 upbeat ditties which emphasize the "achla kef" (big fun) aspect of growing up.

Menashe, a genial figure, sings to the third-graders and up among us. His songs speak of going to the beach with your friends, having surprise parties in class, and being afraid to get on the roller coaster at the amusement park.

Although Menashe occasionally hits a good riff, such as the fun and danceable "Power Ball," the album doesn't get much past agreeably listenable.

Actually, one wonders at whom the album is targeted. The younger members of the Children's Channel audience probably relate better to the maddeningly sing-song tunes found on Barney's latest album. As for the older listeners, one would presume that they are less interested in what Oded said than in staring at Bar-Zohar's chest.

Soulful Sarah floats above the world of pop



By David Isaacson

and Richard Rodgers form staples for the most uncompromising of artists – John Coltrane spent countless hours of rehearsal, studio and performance time working on "My Favorite Things"

SARAH SINGS
SOULFULLY
Sarah Vaughan
(NMC)JAZZ PROFILE:
SARAH VAUGHAN
(NMC)A TOUCH OF CLASS
Sarah Vaughan
(NMC)

When, in the 1960s, record executives wanted the artists on their jazz rosters to record pop tunes, Sarah Vaughan didn't put up much resistance. The Divine Sarah was well acquainted with popular success – in the '40s and '50s she had a number of big hits, such as the million-selling "Passing Strangers" with pianist Billy Eckstine. (Of course the dividing line between jazz and pop has always been murky. Show tunes by George Gershwin, Cole Porter

from *The Sound of Music*.) Three Sarah Vaughan discs from NMC highlight both the highs and lows of the jazz-as-pop genre.

Sarah Vaughan's control of vibrato and timbre, her ear for harmony, range of tone and relaxed sense of rhythm make her a nonpareil. Although in performance she would often sing in the intimate setting of a piano, bass and drums trio, when it came to

recording, the suits placed her squarely in front of big bands. At the Roulette label from 1960 to 1964, she fronted any number of studio orchestras led by the likes of Benny Carter, Quincy Jones, Lalo Schiffrin and Gerald Wilson.

It was the latter who arranged 1963's *Sarah Sings Soulfully* – a mixture of standard ballads (Monk's "Round Midnight," Bobby Timmons's "Moanin'"), lesser-known jazz compositions (Canonball Adderley's wonderful soft funk "Sermonette," Ray Brown's grooving "Gravy Waltz"), and contemporary pop songs ("A Taste of Honey," "What Kind of Fool Am I?"). Wilson, it seems, had a weakness for the Hammond organ, which, played by Ernie Freeman, features on all 12 cuts. The instrument was often the bane of '60s music in much the same way that drum machines were in the '80s and electronic programming is now. Sarah Vaughan is just about the only vocalist who could rise above such inappropriate support.

JAZZ PROFILE: Sarah Vaughan also concentrates on the '60s, but with a great variety of lineups.

Showing that less is more, Vaughan sings "Key Largo" (from 1962's superb *Sarah Vaughan Plus Two*) supported only by Barney Kessel's guitar and Joe Comfort's bass. The effect of this, on one of the most beautiful cuts on all three of these discs, is somewhat spoiled by the next track, a big-band "Them There Eyes." This is the sort of discontinuity that ruins compilations.

Similarly, a sweet, understated "My Favorite Things" (from 1961's acclaimed *After Hours*) accompanied only by Muller Lowe (guitar) and George Duvivier (bass), is followed by an orchestral "Snowbound."

Most absurd of all, a stunning "I Cried For You," from *Sarah Vaughan-Lester Young: The Town Hall Concert 1947*, is included as the final track, like an afterthought. Vaughan's phrasing on this version of the song is quite different from the recordings more commonly heard and will wow her fans. But you should seek out the original album rather than this disappointing collection.

A TOUCH of Class looks like the

sort of cheap compilation you find in airport stores. Twenty songs are thrown together willy-nilly, there are no liner notes and the same photo is reproduced six times. While Vaughan devotees will already have these covers of "Fly Me To The Moon" and "Moonlight," a *Touch of Class* does include some uncommon material.

Given Leonard Bernstein's penchant for open spaces, and the incredible lengths for which Vaughan can hold a note, "Maria" from *West Side Story* is an ideal vehicle for the singer. "I'm Gonna Live Till I Die" shows that Vaughan could be explosive and "Star Eyes" shows how her divine voice could float above even the mushiest arrangements.

Not only Miles Davis fans will appreciate "On Green Dolphin Street," which treats the listener to the resonant depths, perfect intonation, audacious note placement and feather-light swing that only Vaughan could produce. The last cut, "Goodnight Sweetheart," accompanied by guitar only, is one of the most touching finales I've ever heard.

Arts funding builds bridges between nations

By HELEN KAYE

Just a bunch of arts buffans sitting around talking, was the way one of the organizers described the recent second Anglo-Israeli Colloquium at Beit Gabriel. But when the buffans in question happen to be some of the best, brightest, most articulate and most experienced around, and their subject is *Support of the Arts – Whose Responsibility*, ideas crackle.

The participants divided into three groups to discuss music, dance and literature; theater, film, and museums; arts administration and communication.

There were arguments, as well as agreements to disagree, conceded AIC Israel chairman Professor David Samuel, who is also Viscount Samuel. Everybody, however, agreed that the arts in both the UK and here are chronically underfunded. Direct spending on the arts – NIS 100 per person per year in Israel and £16 (approx. NIS 103) in the UK – is the lowest in Europe and places the arts and their institutions in both countries on the endangered species list.

A 1998 local think tank report lumps the \$82.2 million spent on the arts in Israel last year together with "numerous other government expenditures of dubious value," and contended that the govern-

ment subsidies favored the elitist few at the expense of the "poorer classes" who contribute to but do not benefit from the subsidies.

Unique institutions and educational programs, such as Onamut La'am's (Art for the Masses) "basket of culture" which allows local authorities outside the main urban areas to purchase a yearlong subsidized program of theater, music, dance, the plastic arts and literature, were discussed. The groups also heard about the "Art at Work" program in the UK, which sends performing and other artists into the workplace, because, as Colin Tweedy put it, "we have to be brave and speak about the necessity of fitness for the soul as well as for the body."

Tweedy, who is CEO of the UK's Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts, said at the AIC's final session: "I'm a failure. Although we have £100m. now versus £17m. 15 years ago, we have only two of the original 10 companies. We have to educate a new generation of MBA executives that culture is important, or corporate sponsorship will wither on the vine in the 21st century."

Private philanthropy supplanting or complementing direct or indirect (via government lotteries) government funding was one of the major issues at the colloquium, as was the importance of cultural education, the creeping

"dumbing down" of the arts and the encroachment of market forces where rating determines all.

The final session presented the conclusions reached by all three discussion groups. They determined that governments should fund the arts.

Quoting contemporary music publisher Sally Groves who'd said that "art and creativity are expressions of the human spirit," Lord Chandos added, "and some of that can only flourish with support outside the market system. We have to defend the new and the innovative to maintain creativity, otherwise culture will become moribund."

Tom Chandos is a banker, a director of the English National Opera and the UK chairman of AIC. He participated in the first group, chaired by John Tusa who manages London's Barbican Theater. Chairman of the second group was Martin Weyl, director emeritus of the Israel Museum, and the third group was headed by an arts funding researcher, Professor Elihu Katz, who is a professor emeritus of sociology and communications at Hebrew University.

The final reports illustrated both the diversity and the similarity of the deliberations, and underscored the idea that support of the arts, whether solely by government, solely by the private sector or a

mix of both, was essential both for nation building and for building bridges between nations.

"Free expression and the arts may not help democracy," observed Tusa dryly, "but they can limit tyranny."

All three groups wrestled with the problem of support for existing large institutions such as the opera, orchestras or dance companies, versus creating support bases for new ones, and with the question of criteria for such support. The need to restore cultural education to the school system was discussed along with the equally pressing need to acquire new audiences.

No concrete recommendations emerged from the colloquium, but each side did get a more precise, refined and subjective view of the other's problems and/or solutions.

"We have learned to justify our requests for arts funding in terms of their usefulness to society, more employment, education and so forth," said Chandos in conclusion. "That's a trap. Arts funding should be for its own sake, and we need the courage to argue for that."

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEK	WEEK	ARTIST	TITLE
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#2	1	EYAL GOLAN	CHAYAL SHEIL AHAVA
#3	2	EMMA SHAPPLIN	CARMINE MEO
#4	8	ZEHAVER BEN	HABAYTA LACHAZOR
#5	NEW	GLYKERIA	ETZEV MATOK
#6	7	3 TENORS	PARIS LIVE 1998
#7	NEW	VIA	KOL LASHALOM – TRIBUTE
#8	NEW	KAVERT	KAVERT BAPARK
#9	3	ALABINA	ALABINA
#10	8	HASMACHOT	HASMACHOT
#11	18	MADONNA	RAY OF LIGHT
#12	RE	EYAL BARKAN	GOOD MORNING ISRAEL
#13	9	EYAL GOLAN	BELADAYICH
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Germany's important election

When the polling stations close this evening, close to 80 million citizens of a large Central European country will find out who has won what has been described as the most "lackluster" election campaign in recent memory.

Quite a lot of effort, in fact, has been expended in remarking on how surprisingly bland, unremarkable, even "normal" the election season has proven to be. It might prove to be a bit of a cliffhanger towards the end, it has been said, but it's still only a contest of personalities between party leaders whose opinions are so similar that ideology seems like a thing of the past. Just like any other election in any other nation. A day at the ballot boxes, having little or nothing to do with the country's place in Europe, the world, or history.

But given that the elections being held today are in Germany, things can't be that simple. It is, of course, impossible to live in Israel, where fistfights still break out over the public performance of Richard Wagner symphonies, and be completely dispassionate about Germany.

More than 50 years and three generations after the end of World War II, there are still Holocaust survivors among us who bear living testimony to the horrors they went through. Their ongoing struggles to receive just compensation for the gold that was taken from them and the labor they were forced to perform to the limits of human capacities for German corporations raking in profits are the subject of daily newspaper headlines.

The debate over the long-delayed Holocaust memorial in Berlin - which is about to once again become a capital city - may be a minor issue in the German elections, but it is an item of interest here.

Nor can observers of world history view Germany as if it were an average country in the world's roll of nations. It has been the source of both some of the world's greatest culture and science, and of two terrible world wars. The two main ideologies pitted in an epic struggle in the last century against the democratic, liberal Anglo-American political system - communism and fascism - had their roots in Germany, which also served as the dividing line of the Cold War.

A strategically located, massive and productive country, Germany, which rose from the destruction it suffered in World War II to become the economic powerhouse of Europe, can still affect the future course of history in any of a number of planes.

Despite the attempts to downplay the importance of the elections taking place today, the truth is that the main candidates can be seen as representing various facets of these aspects of Germany and its history.

The incumbent, Chancellor Helmut Kohl, has

already assured himself a place in the history books, having transformed himself from a provincial politician to a world statesman in 16 years of rule. More than anything else, it was the sudden opportunities that presented themselves with the collapse of the iron curtain and the Berlin Wall that catapulted Kohl into the role of statesman, precisely because he knew how to seize those opportunities to become the unifier of Germany.

The 40-year division of Germany was always a more complex issue than simple US-Soviet rivalry. Behind it was a sense shared by many nations, large and small, that a powerful and united Germany would always pose a potential threat to the stability of Europe.

Correspondingly, Kohl managed to bring about German unification not only due to the collapse of the Eastern bloc, but also because of the success of the other great statesmanlike effort he will be remembered for - the acceleration of European unity. Kohl understood perfectly that only in the context of a European house, so closely interrelated that visionaries can speak of eventually forming a united European state, could Germany assure her neighbors that Germany's great drive and power would be turned towards productive rather than destructive ends.

To his enduring credit, he was so loyal to the idea of European unity that he personally led a major political effort to persuade his countrymen to sacrifice their beloved mark for the unknown qualities of a single European currency.

Swallowing up East Germany, however, put Germany right in the middle of this decade's great debate over how to find prosperity in a global economy. Converting the formerly communist east into an integral part of a western economy, while preserving a traditional welfare system, has proven to be far more difficult than imagined.

The resulting record unemployment, now at six million jobsless, prompted the rise of the challenger in this election, Social Democratic Party candidate Gerhard Schroeder. Taking a page out of the campaign book British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Schroeder has been talking about a "third way" between capitalism and socialism, promising to find a compromise that will provide both the prosperity of American-style capitalism and the social security of the old welfare state.

A victory for Schroeder today will complete a major sweep of victories for such "third way" candidates in Western Europe. Whether or not they can work together in a united Europe in seeking and working out the details for that so far elusive goal remains to be seen.

This, then, is not the dull election it has been portrayed as, but rather one whose results warrant attention.

History may repeat itself

DANIEL BLOCH

This week, on Yom Kippur, we will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the beginning of the Yom Kippur War, one of the worst days, if not the worst, in the history of the State of Israel.

We lost more than 3,000 soldiers due to mistakes that could have been avoided. No war can be clear of mistakes, but most of those mistakes are found only in hindsight, by asking the non-scientific questions of "what if."

But in the case of the Yom Kippur War, we know that so many lives were lost due to errors that should and could have been avoided on many fronts: Political leadership, military intelligence and army preparedness.

A lot of attention has been paid to the terrible mistakes of Israel's intelligence community: It had all

the information but did not interpret it correctly because it was convinced that Egypt was not ready for war and Syria would not start a war on its own.

I have read most of the raw intelligence material that arrived on the desks of the heads of our military and civilian intelligence organizations. Nothing was missing except for the exact hour of the opening of the joint Egyptian-Syrian attack. The reason for that was simple - only a handful of people in both countries were privy to the ultimate secret.

But this piece of information was not needed for the Israeli forces, regular and reserves, to be on full alert, ready for action, defensive or offensive, and for the government to be able to decide on a pre-emptive strike if needed, or an immediate response when the enemy opened fire.

Even just one piece of early warning information that existed in September and early October 1973, should have aroused suspicion that something was afoot in Cairo and Damascus. But there were so many warning signs - the sudden rapprochement between Sadat and Assad, the emergency visit of King Hussein to Golda Meir in Tel Aviv, the sudden evacuation of the families of Soviet advisers and warnings arriving from various international sources, including Austrian chancellor Bruno Kreisky.

THE COMBINATION of all of these signs should have sounded the alarms and put the Israeli army on high alert. But the stubbornness

Unfortunately, Prime Minister Netanyahu reminds us more of Golda than of Begin or Rabin

of defense minister Moshe Dayan and the head of Military Intelligence (what an oxymoron) Gen. Eli Zera to stick to their previous conception that Egypt is not ready for war, paralyzed and blinded all the systems.

On this side of the coin the main blame lies on the shoulders of Dayan, Zera and their assistants. It does not clear others, below and above them, who did not demand more information.

Nevertheless, a significant part of the blame lies on the political leadership, first and foremost Golda Meir. She refused to realize that time was not on our side and that we could not hold all the territories forever without risking another war.

After 1967, there were only two choices: Retain all of the territories

but be ready for renewal of the war in the most unfavorable circumstances without American or international support, or be ready to negotiate peace and security arrangements in exchange for most of the territories.

Between 1967 and 1973, the Labor leadership declared adherence to the second option, but in reality it yielded to those who preferred the first one.

Those who wanted comprehensive peace in return for territory, such as Lova Eliav, Yitzhak Ben-Aharon, Abba Eban and Pinhas Sapir, were forced out or silenced. From time to time Yigal Alon or Dayan showed understanding that this situation could not last, but they were afraid to stand up to Golda Meir.

Meir and most of her ministers and advisers did not understand the consequences of her choices and where her policies were leading the country. The greatness of former prime ministers Begin and Rabin was in their understanding of the need for an active quest for peace. Unfortunately Prime Minister Netanyahu reminds us more of Golda than of Begin or Rabin.

And looking at our military leadership, headed by Defense Minister Mordechai and Chief of General Staff Shaul Mofaz, we are not so sure that our armed forces are fully prepared for a war resulting from any of the government's political mistakes. The lesson of Yom Kippur 1973 has not been learned, and history may repeat itself.

Lurie's NewsCartoon



"Don't worry, I have the animal under tight control!"

Beware the taxman

DAVID WEINBERG

ed. She deserves her just rewards.

Welcome to Israel, welcome home, Mom. Right?

Wrong, now says Mr. New-Sophisticated Israeli Taxman. Reward? Poppycock - let us fine her! Make Mother Dear pay Israeli taxes, something between 35 and 50 percent, on the retirement income from the municipal bonds she left in the US, hiding from its rightful owners in the Israeli government.

From now on, Mother Dear will

have to file a personal income tax return, report her annual gains, and contribute like any other citizen to the Israeli tax base.

WELL, I think that's wrong, stupid, anti-Zionist. Time for all us Western olim to wake up and tell the taxman - No! Reconsider the legislation now, before it goes through.

Reform of Israel's taxation system is needed, I admit. On paper, the Treasury's plan makes sense. Expand the tax base by eliminating exemptions and lower marginal tax rates.

But the Treasury has about as much chance of successfully passing legislation to tax Israeli savings plans, residential rental income, pension plans, profes-

sional development funds or capital gains from the stock market as I do of being the first Jew on Jupiter. Every big lobby in the country will stand resolutely in Yaakov Neeman's way.

So what's left? Where is the Finance Ministry going to get the expanded revenue necessary in order to justify the promised reduction in tax rates? From people with money abroad, of course, especially now that Israelis are allowed to invest their money any-

where in the world.

Ergo, the plan to tax all global income, like the US and Britain. Now, I can just see all those veteran Israelis who've been stashing away funds abroad for all these years, illegally, all of a sudden running to declare their overseas income for Mr. Neeman. More likely that it'll be the Zionist immigrant pensioner, who honestly files when told, owning-up to the taxman.

Paying a fine, in essence, for having moved here.

Since these tax proposals have been so comprehensively refined by the top experts in the country over two years of study, it is unthinkable that the olim problems weren't considered, your figure. The tax reform legislation

now before the parliament is so narrowly myopic and patently unfair to immigrants that, well, one has to assume the Treasury will catch on and amend its proposals with exemptions that redress the potential damage.

Or so I thought.

But quick calls to the Finance Ministry's director-general, and to its chief tax reform planner, tell a different story. Prof. Benzion Zilberfarb, the director-general - an honest, upstanding public servant and a top-flight economist of international stature - wasn't at all aware of the problem. (But he promised to check into it, and I'm sure he will.)

Tsippi Galyam's office (which planned the tax reform and calculates state revenue) tried to convince me that "fair's fair." Immigrants ought not be entitled to tax breaks on income abroad any more than any other Israeli, beyond credits for tax already levied by a foreign government, her deputy Avi Lavon, told me. And he admitted that there were no discussions underway to legislate built-in exemptions for pensioner immigrants, or for young immigrant families with inheritance monies abroad.

"Exemptions for olim from the new foreign income tax is not something we've felt the need to consider," Lavon says. Sure, because olim are a weak group, easy to hit on, and behind us stands no powerful Manufacturers Association or other lobby group.

But wouldn't this be a good time to create one?

What is it that improves GOP chances at the polls in November?

Democrats was spastic: "The only thing that draws GOP attention away from Lewinsky's crotch is more money for the rich." We are familiar with the line.

THE SPEAKER can plead that tax relief, when it includes relief at all levels, has necessarily to aid proportionately the rich. That being so, the class warfare toxin is sounded and Democrats make the most of it. The councils within the

GOP are certainly guided by the politically sovereign consideration of the day, namely: What is it that improves GOP chances at the polls in November?

The analysis is tight, because hanging in the balance is the Republican majority of the new Senate and the new House. If five additional Republicans are elected, then power is accumulated to break Democratic filibusters. To do this requires a vote of 60 senators. What then happens is a presidential veto, unless the GOP were to come in on election day with 67 senators,

paucity of thought given to the subject that merely to raise it translates in much of the public mind as a call for extra toys for Bill Gates.

This is curious given that three prominent candidates for the GOP nomination in 2000 are deeply committed to radical tax reform. Steve Forbes, John Ashcroft and Lamar Alexander wish something between a flat tax and a 28 percent maximum tax, which is to say they occupy territory ranging from Milton Friedman to Ronald Reagan.

In their criticism of tax relief, the

critics will always be talking about a giveaway to the rich, which is different from returning to one's neighbor what was his.

Some years ago an effort was made, spearheaded by then-senator Charles Percy, to introduce sunset legislation for regulatory federal agencies. Under the plan, 10 years after an agency was founded its raison d'être would be re-explored. In the absence of a vote reconstituting the agency, it would cease to exist. The idea of reversing the presumptions - from perpetuating incumbent regulations to allowing them to lapse unless revalidated - is fine political thinking.

An application of it would nicely apply to fiscal policy. Why not, after five years, the last tax increase expires unless it is voted back in by Congress? Another way to make sound policy, also attractive, would be: "Every five years, tax rates will be lowered uniformly by 1 percent." Those who have been paying 39 percent will now pay 38; those paying 15 percent will now pay 14.

Does the speaker hear us? We think we are hearing his voice saying, See you for every five years, raise you to every two years. But he is talking about after the election, we must suppose.

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(Universal Press Syndicate)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GRAB AS GRAB CAN

Sir, - It is natural for people to be annoyed at the inconvenience caused by the strikes of the teachers and the workers in the public sector, especially since the details of the circumstances in which the strikers find themselves are hidden from the public by both sides. What does a teacher earn? What are the pensions paid to retirees in the public sector? What benefits do they receive?

Shocking, however, is the hypocrisy, bound in self-righteousness, of some of the critics of these strikes.

In Jonathan Rosenblum's article "Back to school," (September 4), the writer in effect says that the haredi teachers put the welfare of

their pupils above selfish greed. "The participants view the stakes as the essence of life. For some - money; for us - Torah."

We look forward to Rosenblum's next article which will no doubt say, "Look at the Torah-inspired morality of our teachers who refuse to accept the increase in salary which was won by the secular teachers on the backs of suffering children."

He might then go on to discuss the morals of the religious parties on the way they use political clout to extort funding and on the way haredi schools and yeshivot do their reporting for receiving a slice of the pie.

The other shocker came from our

BOTH SIDES OF THE STORY

ily with no sisters and two brothers. All three of us male siblings were raised by our parents in the same way: I was the only sibling to come out a gay man.

My family on the whole support my lifestyle, although my parents do feel somewhat bereft of grandchildren. All major religions have opposing views on our lifestyle that move from abhorrence to abstinence - "love the sinner, hate the sin."

Many homosexuals across the globe live healthy, happy lifestyles, be they in steady partnerships or be

prime minister, who offered to give us his 5 percent increase in salary, in view of the problems facing the country. It came after the Histadrut announced its strike. If only he would have come out strongly against the salary increases of senior public officials and the outrageous salaries and pensions of managers of government controlled bodies, when there was no threat of a strike!

The accepted culture seems to be grab as grab can and hypocritical criticism only serves to justify these strikes.

JACK ZIV-EL

Herzliya.

they single. The happiness we derive has come from a long battle of equality and understanding, one that has enabled articles like yours to be openly published and read by both homo- and heterosexuals alike.

I applaud you in your reporting and hope next time you publish an article on a lifestyle that is rewarding and normal to tens of thousands of men and women, that you delve a little deeper into arguments both pro and against.

STEF BRAITHWAITE

Tel Aviv.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On September 27, 1933, The Palestine Post reported on the festive official welcome given to the Abyssinian Queen in Jerusalem.

The railway station and the square were ablaze with Abyssinian colors, while carpets were spread from the steps of the train in which Her Majesty traveled

in a special saloon car from Egypt.

50 years ago: On September 27, 1948, The Palestine Post reported that the decapitated bodies of 19 Israeli soldiers captured by Arabs at Midya, about 10 kilometers north of Latrun, were found when the Jews retook the post. Three soldiers were still missing and there

were many signs of sadism, looting and destruction. The Arabs who attacked Midya were about 300 strong, a third of them Arab Legionnaires. Heavy shelling preceded the attack and there were numerous Arab casualties. Later Arab women were seen proceeding to this spot.

Alexander Zivli

هكذا من الاصل



Isaac Israels: Elegant Lady in a Tearoom (\$80,000-\$100,000 at Christie's Amsterdam)



Jozef Israels: Army and Navy, oils (\$80,000-\$100,000 at Christie's Amsterdam)

Skeleton in the coffin

AT THE AUCTIONS

In addition to top items from the \$15 m. collection of Harry Torczyner (to be sold by Christie's in New York on November 19 and 20), on preview at the Tel Aviv Hilton between October 4-6, are lots from Christie's forthcoming sales in Amsterdam.

The most fascinating lot is a fully articulated, miniature gold skeleton in a gilded silver coffin, fashioned by the late master goldsmith Israel Rouchomovsky in Odessa in 1901. The lot is to be sold in Amsterdam at Christie's November 24 sale of silver and Judaica (\$100,000-\$150,000).

The skeleton was seen last year at the Israel Museum show of Rouchomovsky's work, which was built around his famous golden tiara. The tiara was sold without his knowledge to the Louvre as a genuine antique. Rouchomovsky went to Paris to prove to the Louvre that he was the author of the work and decided to settle there, earning the patronage of the Rothschilds.

The gold skeleton is just 9 cm. in length; the coffin 10.5 cm. The lid of the coffin shows the Grim Reaper leading the rich, the poor and the lame.

Also on preview at the Tel Aviv Hilton will be paintings by

Jozef and Isaac Israels, to be sold at Christie's 19th-century picture sale in Amsterdam on October 27. The father and son are currently the subject of an exhibition at the Tel Aviv Museum.

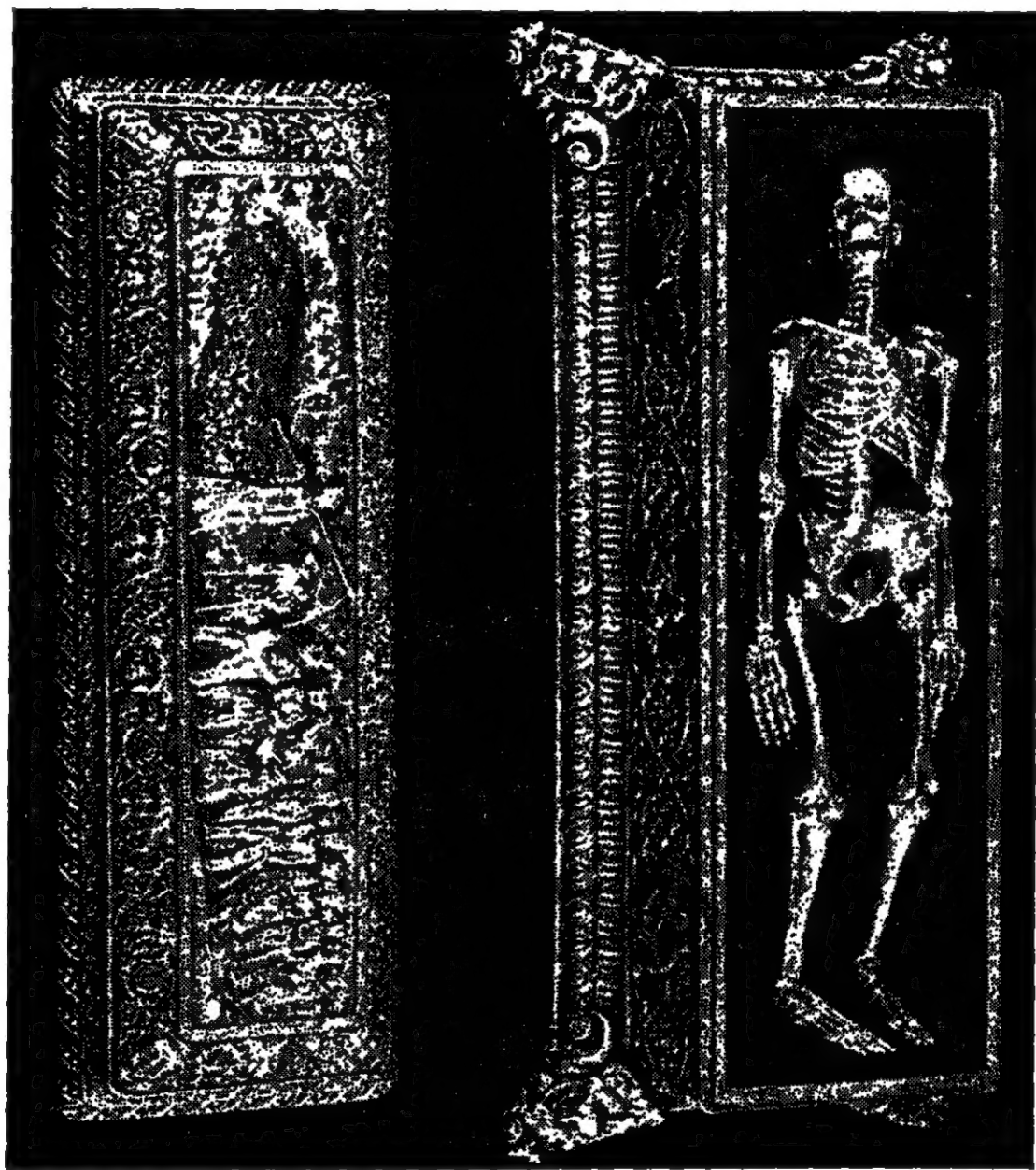
On view at the Hilton is a typical Jozef Israels genre picture of a fisherman in clogs showing toy soldiers to an infant in a barrel chair, both are seated in front of a hearth. Every detail is revealing (\$80,000-\$100,000). A freely painted impressionist oil of "An Elegant Lady in a Tearoom," by Isaac Israels has a greater understanding of color harmony (\$80,000-\$100,000).

As reported last week, among the 50 Torczyner lots are major works by Rene Magritte, Francis Bacon, George Segal, Max Ernst, Christo and Klee.

SUPERB ORIENTAL and European carpets and textiles are being offered at Sotheby's New York this Thursday; many of the items will be of particular interest to collectors here but prices are going through the roof.

The first 92 of the 343 lots are from the spectacular Sailer collection of Asian and Indian kilims and textiles; many would be the envy - and perhaps despair - of modernist hard-edge painters.

Many of these will rise above \$20,000. Lot No. 23, a Central Anatolian 18th-century runner, has an estimate of



Israel Rouchomovsky: Gold Skeleton and Gilded Silver Coffin, 1901 (\$100,000-\$150,000 at Christie's Amsterdam)

\$40,000-\$60,000! A brilliant geometrical Tajikistan kilim from around 1900 has an estimate of \$8,000-\$12,000.

Among the carpets, there are some very fine early 20th-century items from Amritsar in typical golden hues, one expected to go over \$25,000.

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A tribute to two-wheeled transport



During France's 'Day without Cars' last Tuesday, 35 French cities, including Paris, blocked off areas to traffic, forcing commuters to use public transport. (AP)

Earthly Concerns



By D'vora Ben Shaul

In Vancouver, Canada, if the call goes out for emergency police intervention, up to 45 police officers converge on the scene within minutes.

Even during rush hour, when emergency vehicles get stuck in traffic jams, the Vancouver Quick Response Unit arrives without delay.

Its members come on bicycles. The Quick Response Unit was launched a few years ago, when police found that, all too often, police officers arrived too late to be of help because traffic in the heart of the city simply did not allow access.

The unit has been so successful that plans are under way to enlarge this bicycle-mounted contingent of the police force.

But it isn't only in Vancouver that this non-polluting, fast and convenient mode of transportation is becoming more popular.

In the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark, approximately 30 percent of trips within the city are by bicycle. In Chinese and other major Asian cities, the percentage is even higher. In major Chinese cities more than 50% of trips are by bicycle.

Advocates of bicycles point out that not only are these machines non-polluting, they are cheap, and even fast by urban standards, making a two-to-five kilometer trip in about one-third of the time it takes to travel by automobile. Moreover, they are quieter, require less infrastructure and provide their riders with some great exercise.

But it is with regard to pollution reduction that the bicycle makes its greatest impact. Air pollution, largely from vehicle exhaust, is the blight of cities around the world. Some 20-30% of carbon dioxide, the gas most heavily implicated in climatic change, is emitted by fuel-burning vehicles.

Even in the United States, where several decades of pollution controls have improved air quality, in 1995 one-third of all Americans still lived in cities that

did not meet federal clean air standards.

Because bicycles are used for relatively short trips, they replace the most serious pollutant factor, the short car trip. According to studies in California, at least 90% of polluting emissions during a seven-mile trip occurred within the first mile, when motors are still cold and inefficient.

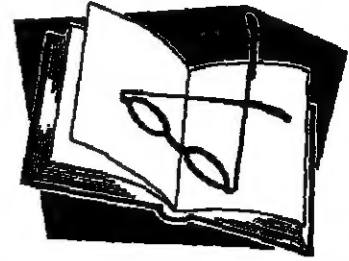
Since urban vehicular traffic is slow, the pollution is greater than on the highway, because idling and slow-moving vehicles emit more toxic materials than fast-moving traffic.

In addition, the cost of bicycling is minimal both to the user and to the authorities that choose to provide infrastructure. Covered, locked bicycle stalls cost about \$50 to \$100 each to build, while each additional space for car parking costs several thousand dollars. And hundreds of bicycles can be safely racked in the space needed for a couple of dozen cars.

All in all, the bicycle offers too many advantages to be ignored. This is encouraging a number of cities around the world to rely more and more on them for municipal inspectors, meter monitors, police and other security personnel.

Looking for love in all the wrong places

BOOK REVIEW



By Steve Silk

The long and horrific war in Vietnam has inspired much of Tim O'Brien's greatest writing. The author is at his best writing about hazily defined struggles that have no clear victors, where mind-searing, split-second moments of jungle combat imprint themselves in the subconscious mind, only to erupt later in a paroxysm of fury.

His previous writings - *The Things They Carried*, *Going After Cacciato* and even *In the Lake of the Woods* - all deal with the fragility of a psyche tortured by war.

In his new novel, *Tomcat in Love*, the critically acclaimed storyteller turns to a conflict that's been simmering even longer than the war in Vietnam: the battle between the sexes. It's no surprise to learn that war, no matter who the combatants are or where the battle lines are drawn, is hell.

But who would have guessed it could also be hilarious? In what may be the book's biggest surprise, O'Brien makes a stylistic hairpin turn and crashes right into your funny bone in this laugh-a-minute look at a bewildered man's tragicomic search for love in all the wrong places.

The tale's protagonist, Thomas Chippering, is among the shell-shocked survivors of that battle of the sexes. Having just suffered through a divorce, Chippering feels even more deeply wounded by his ex-wife's betrayal. Lorna Sue has forsaken him for a hairy, suntanned tycoon in Tampa whose name Chippering cannot even bring himself to say. He wants revenge. In the process, he also plans to get back at her eerily protective brother Herbie.

That might not sound so strange, but then Chippering is the kind of oddball who makes you sit up and pay attention. Not since Ignatius J. Reilly in John Kennedy Toole's *A Confederacy of Dunces* has there been a character who is at once so repulsive and so engaging. Partly a dashing Don Juan, partly a gallant Don Quixote and partly a WASPy Woody Allen in deep denial, Chippering bumbles through one comic turn after

another. Chippering is a college professor who fancies himself a war hero and an irresistibly handsome ladies' man. Actually, he's neither. This self-deluded dolt is adrift on a sea of pompous grandiosity, a tweedy Walter Mitty who's as horny as, well, a tomcat. He can't meet a woman without sizing her up, especially if she's one of the sweet young things among his students at college.

Chippering sums it up like this: "I yearned for steadfast, eternal love as represented by the lasting fidelity of one woman, but at the same time, I wanted to be wanted... I wanted my cake, to be sure, but I covered the occasional cupcake too."

Not that he ever wants to consummate any of these happenstance relationships. His conquests are all in his head, and in the little black book he has kept since age 12. It documents every encounter with extensive notes. Chippering would rather glory in chalking up another hand-holding (421 on record), nuzzling (233) or meaningful gaze (1,788).

He's the worst cliché of an on-the-make guy imaginable, one who sees nothing wrong in inviting a new female acquaintance to visit him at the home of his girlfriend, and who even wonders if his established paramour will make coffee for him into ever-deepening trouble.

Chippering sounds more like a caricature than a character, and it's a testament to O'Brien's skill that he hooks you so deeply, you can't stop reading. In part, it's the sheer comedy of Chippering's self-delusion and the unexpected situations it creates.

The rest of what keeps you turning pages is the juggernaut pace of the story.

Back to the revenge on his ex-wife, Lorna Sue. While committing any number of evil intrigues, Chippering encounters yet another new love, a real one, it seems, in the person of Mrs. Robert Kooshof. Yes, she's married.

Then there's the comely college coed whose dissertation Chippering ghost-wrote. She's reported him to the college president. Oh, and some angry Green Berets, who Chippering ran afoul of in Nam, are stalking him.

As those nooses inexorably tighten, Chippering shows just how full of fight he can be. After all, a war without winners doesn't necessarily have to have losers either.

(The Hartford Courant)

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Zooming down the info highway

The Ra'anana Municipality will be well pleased if, within a few years, residents can't find City Hall.

The city fathers aren't trying to get away with anything – they just want the city's 70,000 residents to do most of their municipal business via the Internet.

No municipality in the country is as computerized as Ra'anana's, the nearest runner-up, though still quite a distance behind, is Ashkelon's. Poor Jerusalem, and even Tel Aviv, are way behind.

The reasons Ra'anana is zooming down the information superhighway are the high income and educational level of its citizens (the majority of homes have a modern-equipped computer) – and the fact that Mayor Ze'ev Bielski has made the computerization of municipal services a top priority.

This trend is helped by the establishment of numerous computer firms in the city, like Compaq, Nice and Aureq, whose staffers live mostly in Ra'anana. Some take high-school pupils majoring in computers as interns during their summer vacation; these contacts could lead to jobs after the army or university.

Bielski, whose ongoing e-mail communication with many of his constituents will certainly not harm his chances in the November elections, first discovered the Internet three or four years ago, via his 11-year-old son. He publicized his e-mail address for all residents to use, and since then has kept his promise to answer all e-mail messages personally within 48 hours.

"I now get an average of 20 messages a day," Bielski said in an interview (arranged by e-mail through his address: zeeviki@raanana.org.il). He refers many of them to city officials who handle requests; but he reads them all.

"I also get messages from former Ra'anana residents. For example, one couple living in the US asked me, if I had a chance, to contact their mother in our city. I called the number and told her she had read."

"Did you see them abroad?" the woman asked. "No, I got a message over the Internet," I said, explaining what that was. Impressed, she said: "Well, if it wouldn't be too much trouble, could you send a message back saying that Grandpa is fine?"

The mayor transmitted her regards. Bielski doesn't touch-type but he speaks fluent English, which is the language of 90% of his e-mail

Ashkelon is number two, and Jerusalem and Tel Aviv are much farther behind. No municipality in the country is as computerized as Ra'anana's, Judy Siegel-Itzkovich finds

messages, including those from Hebrew speakers.

MORE important than the mayor being on-line is the computerization of municipal offices and the city's educational institutions.

Rivka Yidov, the municipality's chief systems operator, moved from a senior position in the Defense Ministry to the municipality five years ago.

"It was a sacrifice, but she is a Ra'anana resident," Bielski explains.

The city's computer department has constantly grown, now numbering nearly 20 staffers.

"This service is the only place in the municipality where we haven't cut expenses," the mayor adds.

Three years ago, all of Ra'anana's 65 kindergartens got computers, and all its elementary and junior and senior high schools are equipped with them as well.

"This year, we linked all the schools to the Internet, and it's integrated into the kids' studies," Bielski says. When the mayor went to each school as it was hooked up to the Web, he invited each pupil to send him a message via the Internet. And many of them did.

There's a special project at the Metrowest High School that makes it possible for pupils to go into a special site and get information about lessons and exams. And pupils who are ill at home for several days can actually take part in their class activities via the Internet.

If this model works well, it will be expanded to all city schools in a year or two, Bielski promises.

Residents can already pay *armona* (property taxes) and other bills by telephone and credit card as well as in person; within five years, they will be able to do so by transferring payment using the Internet. Information about city services has largely been computerized.

Bielski noted that when architects present plans for buildings to city officials, they submit a diskette rather than printed plans.

Ra'anana is also the only city in the country whose engineering department operates a GIS system, which computerizes all data on water, sewage, telephone and other infrastructure so that contractors can know exactly what's under the ground before they start to dig foundations.

Data on building has been stored in a computerized archive after over 5,000 documents were scanned, allowing better control and follow-up.

BIELSKI said that many department heads and other senior workers, hearing about his Internet projects, asked to learn how to integrate computers into their work. Even older employees asked to go for retraining.

New computer systems were purchased, enabling ongoing reports about city activities to reach the mayor's office, where officials can check what has and hasn't been done. The city's Moked (hotline) number has been computerized to make sure that all complaints from residents are dealt with promptly, Bielski said.

The municipality has a central Alpha computer, three NT servers and 300 terminals shared by the 800 city workers. Installed on them is the Outlook computer program, which greatly eases scheduling of meetings.

"A secretary can go into the computer and see when a department head has a free hour or is busy, according to the color of the space. My secretary calls others and a meeting with a dozen department heads can easily be arranged using the computer," the mayor noted.

All this has been accomplished, Bielski says, without dismissing workers. "We have the same number of staffers as before computerization, but now they don't have to work as hard," he says.

Who knows? Maybe the day came when Ra'anana robots will empty garbage receptacles and hang onto the backs of trucks while their driver hits the gas pedal.



Canola oil is not only healthful in salads; it can keep your car running smoothly too.

Drive friendly – on vegetable oil

By DELL RAE MOELLEBERG

Canola oil, the type you put in your salad, can be used to produce a more environmentally friendly motor oil. Colorado and Michigan officials recently signed a limited partnership agreement to industrialize the production of canola-based motor oil.

The motor oil was developed by Duane Johnson, a Colorado State University alternative crops specialist. Johnson, along with representatives from Agro Management, a Colorado Springs-based business commercializing the environmentally friendly oil, signed agreements with Thumb Oilseed Producers Cooperative, a Michigan-based soybean producer-owned cooperative.

TOPC produces soybean cooking oil, but is poised to industrialize the canola-based motor oil for consumer use.

The canola-based motor oil drastically reduces vehicle emissions compared to petroleum-based oils, and doesn't pollute

the environment when it's produced. Independent tests show a reduction of hydrocarbons by about 30% and a significant decrease in carbon dioxide.

The process of making the oil is much like that of making canola-based salad oil: The canola seeds are crushed, extracting the oil and leaving a ground-meal byproduct that can be fed to livestock.

In addition, it's easily disposed of because it isn't a hazardous material, unlike petroleum-based motor oils. Once the canola-based motor oil, which also contains some soybean oil, is used in vehicles, it can be recycled into greases and chain oils that produce no waste – yielding essentially 100% recycled products.

The agreement with TOPC marks the first time canola-based motor oil will be industrialized, although the oil has been tested in several states, including Colorado, California, Wisconsin and Massachusetts, and in New Zealand," said Johnson.

"Use of the oil not only benefits the environment, it's also a

huge boost to rural communities needing alternative crops and markets for their products."

The oil will be marketed in six months in the Michigan area, said Jim LeCureux of Michigan State University.

JOHNSON'S research has been focused in Colorado's San Luis Valley, where area farmers are raising canola and crushing seeds to produce motor oil for testing.

"The industrialization helps us realize the beginning goal of developing the oil – to give farmers another option for a viable crop," said Johnson. "It's possible that additional processing plants will be built in rural communities where the oil is grown. That means more jobs and resources for small-town economies, in addition to cleaner air and less pollution."

Johnson, whose primary focus is to identify crops that can be raised in Colorado, started research on canola products in 1986 and developed the motor oil in 1993. He teamed with Agro

Management, which specializes in finding new uses for old crops and developing new technologies for alternative crops and has patented rights to the canola-based motor oil.

Johnson has tested his own formula for canola-based engine oil in several vehicles, including a 1971 Volkswagen Beetle and 1970 Ford Mustang. The oil is about the same weight as conventional motor oil and is expected to be priced at about double the price, but it comes without the added cost of disposal for used oil.

Johnson said most consumers who switch to the vegetable-based motor oil will have an increase of cost by about \$10 a year per vehicle, based on 20,000 kilometers traveled per year and an oil change every 6,000 kilometers.

Johnson estimates that if canola oil replaced just 5% of the petroleum oil used today, the US market for the oil would be roughly 200 million liters. (Colorado State University News Service)

More children, more education

By JEFF GRABMEIER

US Mormons have shown themselves to be even higher achievers than American Jews, even when their families are large, a study has found.

A sociologist at Ohio State University has found that among Mormons, more children doesn't mean less education, as it does in most of the population.

Dr. Douglas Downey and graduate student Stefanie Neubauer also studied Jewish and farm families – where children may also be encouraged to achieve.

The results, presented at last month's San Francisco meeting of the American Sociological Association, were similar to those found in Mormon families, but were not as strong.

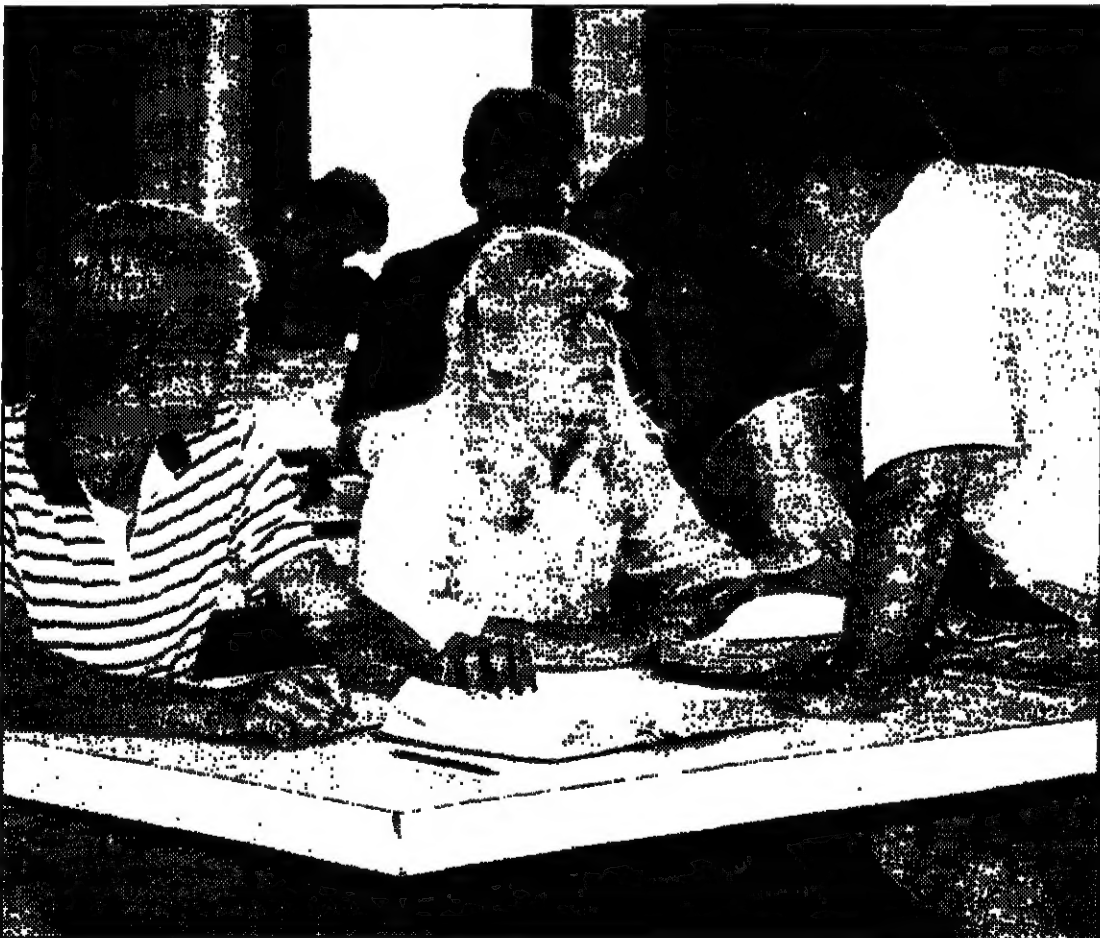
"Our results suggest that Mormons have found ways to devote more resources to their children as family size increases," Downey said. "This helps their children continue to achieve academically."

In a 1995 study published in the *American Sociological Review*, Downey found that academic achievement among children dropped as family size grew because parents had less time and economic resources for each child. "Parents only have so much time and money, and we found that the more children they have, the more those resources are diluted," he said.

His new study was designed to see if the "resource dilution" explanation held true for groups such as Mormons and certain parts of the Jewish community, in which large families are accepted and even encouraged.

Downey examined data from the National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988, which included information from 24,599 eighth graders, 303 of whom were Mormons. He examined student-reported grades and scores of standardized math and reading tests. He then correlated these findings with parents' economic and interpersonal resources, which might be negatively affected as family size increases.

The results showed that



Making sure the lesson is clear: While children's academic achievement may drop as family size grows, this isn't true in the Mormon community. (Jerry Seelinski)

Mormon children didn't display the significant declines in educational performance that other children showed as family size increased. One reason may be that the resources the parents devoted to children did not decline as significantly among Mormons as they did among the rest of the population, Downey said.

FOR example, in most families, more children meant parents had fewer educational materials available in the home, were less likely to know their children's friends, and were less likely to know the friends' parents. In Mormon families there were no such declines.

Other resources – such as money saved for college –

declined for both Mormons and others as family size increased. However, the declines were not as significant among Mormons. Downey said the results suggest Mormon parents, more than others, are likely to pull resources from other parts of their lives as they have more children.

"It may be that Mormon parents spend less time and money doing things for themselves, such as exercising, reading or watching TV, as they have more children," he said.

"They simply allot a greater portion of their total resources to their children than do other parents," Mormon communities may also pitch in to help large families.

"Mormons are well-known for being pro-family, so parents with

many children may receive substantial support from outside of their family," he said.

The study also examined whether family size had the greatest effect on educational achievement in high-income or low-income families.

Surprisingly, large families had the most negative consequences on children in high-income families. Downey said the reason may be that disadvantaged families have little resources to devote to education in the first place, so the addition of more siblings doesn't hurt.

"Disadvantaged parents, for example, probably save little for their children's education and so the addition of another sibling has little impact on these savings," he said. (Ohio State University News Service)

Guides to the perplexed, on-line



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Computer users often feel like screaming when a program doesn't work, or conflicts with another program on their hard disk. Often, the phone lines of software companies' service departments are busy, and once you reach them they're often unwilling to answer questions about a program not related to them.

But even if you don't have a cousin who's a computer freak, you can now get on-line help by picking up the phone and paying per minute over a 057 line.

Easy Help, reached at 057-271271, offers technical help at NIS 5 per minute (the first minute is free) plus VAT, or as subscribers to a package deal.

Easy Help managing director Ronen Ya'acov says the service is currently available from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., but notes it will soon be expanded to 10 p.m., and later to around the clock. The average problem is solved in seven minutes, he adds.

The phones are answered by university computer science students and experienced technicians. They specialize in DOS, the various Windows operating systems, Word, Excel, Power Point, WinFax, PC Anywhere and Access.

The company, which has 31 employees, has invested NIS 2 million in equipment and training support staffers for providing on-line help. So far, since the service began four months ago, 800 customers have bought at least four hours each of support time.

Easy Help is owned by the Easy-Tech Group, which develops varied software systems for professional groups.

COMMUNICATIONS IN SPACE

The universe's first supercon-

ductivity experiment in space has been carried out successfully by the Technion's Gurwin H Techsat satellite, launched last July.

The electrical resistance of superconductors disappears when they are cooled below a certain temperature, allowing electrons to pass through without losing energy. The satellite's superconductors include a thin layer of YBaCu307 on a base of magnesium held in a cryocooler "refrigerator" that keeps the materials at minus 196 degrees Celsius.

The superconductors, which need only small frequency bands and carry many channels, will be a vital part of future telecommunications satellites in the age of Internet, cellular phones and other high-tech data transmissions.

But tests are first being made to ensure that the superconductors will maintain their characteristics in space during the working life of the satellite.

Future experiments on the Techsat will be done to check if the superconductors have changed at all, said Prof. Emil Polturk, head of the physics faculty team that conducted the experiment in cooperation with Rafael, the Israel Arms Development Authority.

So far, Techsat has proven that its superconducting device works well despite being stored for a year before launching.

The entire Technion satellite weighs only 48 kilos and is cheaper, but no less effective, than much larger satellites launched by major world powers. Polturk said that despite the common notion that it's cold in space, the current temperature inside the Techsat is 10 degrees Celsius, due to solar radiation. More information about the satellite can be obtained from the Internet site <http://techsat.inter-net-zahav.net>

TINIEST DROP OF INK

It won't get the company a place in *The Guinness Book of Records*, but Epson has launched a computer printer that uses the "smallest drop of ink" of any printer in the world. Called Stylus Color 740, it

saves money by making each ink cartridge last longer.

A new technology called MicroPiezo controls the exact size, form and location of each drop of ink. It's the first printer that allows the production of variable-sized droplets, producing three sizes on a single document.

The smallest dot is called an Ultra Microdot and is 55% smaller than other printers. Saving ink is not the only benefit: The new technology speeds up the printing process by 40% compared to the popular Stylus Color 600 model.

The new model is marketed here by CMS Computer through authorized dealers around the country.

Meanwhile, the Hewlett-Packard Company in the US has just introduced a new portable device that copies documents with the same speed and quality as an office copier. Called the CapShare 910, the device is about as big as a compact CD player and weighs less than half a kilo, but it can copy all sorts of documents – including business cards, newspaper articles and memos – with a simple swipe down the page.

Hewlett-Packard told Reuters that the device fills one of the remaining gaps in portable communications – how to get documents into digitized form for sending.

"There really isn't anything on the market that is like this," said Irv Christy of Hewlett-Packard's portable capture and communication operation. "A frequent business traveler sending proposals or memos or reports until now had to use one of those airport fax centers."

The CapShare stores up to 50 pages of documents, which can then be sent via e-mail, fax or directly to another computer, printer or wireless device.

While other devices have attempted to provide portable copying in the past, they have been either lacking in quality or difficult to use.

The CapShare will be put on the market in the US on October 1 at an introductory price of \$699.

Osteoporosis isn't a dirty word

Powerful tools now exist to fight bone deterioration, and even reverse it, but women still need exercise and calcium. Judy Siegel-Itzkovich talks to the experts

Osteoporosis is a hidden disease, in more ways than one. A person (usually a woman, who is three times as likely to be affected as the average man) may walk around with the disease without anyone suspecting it.

Unless tested with a sophisticated bone-density scanner, she may suffer from the disease for years without knowing it until one day – in middle or old age – she suffers a hip fracture that puts her permanently into a wheelchair and could even kill her.

Experts in the field regard the bone-thinning disease, which affects a third to two-fifths of all women during their later years, to be as much of a killer as breast cancer. The chances that a 50-year-old woman will succumb to breast cancer at some time in her life are identical to the chances of her dying as a result of complications from fractures of the hip, spine, thigh, wrist or shoulder because of porous bones.

A quarter of patients die within a year of a hip fracture. Among the fatal complications are pneumonia, pulmonary embolism or reactions to anesthesia during hip-replacement surgery.

Moreover, providing nursing facilities for the 50% of hip-fracture victims who become permanently disabled places a heavy financial burden on families, the health system and the economy – the cost of the disease in the US alone has been estimated at \$15 billion a year.

Although the only "stigma" involved in osteoporosis is being older, many people are so ashamed about having the condition that they're reluctant to establish a group that would lobby the authorities to provide anti-osteoporosis drugs as a preventive measure, as opposed to treating patients whose bones are already fractured and as full of holes as a sponge.

Two Jerusalem osteoporosis experts, Prof. Mordechai Popovtzer and Dr. Joseph Foldes of Hadassah-University Hospital's Jerusalem Osteoporosis Center, are now trying to launch just such a lobbying group, in the hope that patients will soon join the effort.

Their center (located at 26 Jaffa Road in Jerusalem, tel. (02) 625-7824 or 625-2428), these experts say, is the only one in Israel devoted solely to the diagnosis, treatment and research of osteoporosis. About half of their patients come from outside Jerusalem, says Popovtzer, who is also a nephrologist at Hadassah-Ein Karem.

ALTHOUGH osteoporosis has become widely known during the past decade or so, it existed in ancient times, even though life spans were much shorter and many women didn't live to reach menopause.

"Around 400 BCE, the Greek historian Herodotus saw bones scattered in a battlefield where Egyptians and Persians fought," says Popovtzer. "He saw two kinds of skulls: one kind disintegrated when hit with a rock, while the others were strong. The fragile skulls belonged to the Persians, who were Caucasians and at much higher genetic risk for osteoporosis than Egyptian blacks."

Together with Hebrew University archaeologists, Foldes examined the bones of 6th-century Christians, found in the Negev. "We noted the skeleton of one woman, who was about 45 years old at her death. [She had] lost over half of her bone density, probably due to a shortage of vitamin D."

That is unlikely to be a cause of osteoporosis in this day and age, however. Most

victims are post-menopausal women, whose waning supply of estrogen disrupts the balance between normal bone-cell production and cell absorption.

Women who are tall and thin are at higher risk than heavier women with broad bones. Smokers are more prone to the disease than nonsmokers because they go into menopause earlier, and some as-yet-undefined toxins in cigarette smoke speed up the breakdown of natural estrogen (as well as that provided by hormone replacements).

Young women whose menstrual periods are absent or erratic may be at risk because of estrogen deficiency. Surgery to remove the ovaries before age 50, thyroid disorders or the taking of steroids can also speed bone thinning.

MEN are not immune to osteoporosis, but they generally have greater bone mass to begin with, and in them the disease is more likely to result from a reduced supply of testosterone, from gastrointestinal disorders or certain medications.

In addition, osteoporosis tends to run in families. Women whose mothers suffered from the disease have about twice the risk of getting it as women without a family history.

"When I diagnose osteoporosis in an elderly woman, I call in her daughters and even her granddaughters for a check-up," Popovtzer adds.

Women are best advised to undergo a special bone-density scan at age 50 to register a base line, especially if they don't intend to undergo hormone-replacement therapy. A year or two later, the test can be repeated, and if more than a 2% bone-mass loss is noted since the first test, osteoporosis is a likely possibility.

Popovtzer notes that in some cases, especially in younger women and in men, the cause of the problem may not be clear. The institute has therefore purchased a \$30,000 computerized histomorphometry system, the only one of its kind in Israel (manufactured by the Leica company, which is known for its high-quality cameras).

A painless bone biopsy is taken from a hip bone in an ambulatory procedure, and the tiny bit of tissue is viewed on a slide in the special microscope.

"We can clearly identify osteoporosis and its causes after examining this tissue," Popovtzer declares.

ALTHOUGH the special X-ray scanner used to gauge bone density is very accu-

rate, it can't be used on some patients (such as pregnant women with bone problems). The Hadassah center, along with Weizmann Institute scientists and the Myriad company, have developed an ultrasound machine that can diagnose osteoporosis without ionizing radiation; it has been in use at the Jerusalem Center for three years.

Foldes also initiated studies of groups from young ballet dancers to women soldiers in the Border Police, to look at the condition of their bones.

He found that ballet dancers, who follow strict diets and may even be anorexic, were at risk for thinning bones. Some Border Policewomen were at risk for stress fractures in their feet.

The best way to deal with osteoporosis is to prevent it, says Foldes candidly. From a young age girls should be encouraged to consume calcium, especially from dairy products, and to continue doing so for life.

To avoid the cholesterol of fatty products, there are many tasty varieties of low- or non-fat milks, cheeses and yogurts.

Regular high-impact exercise, especially walking, is vital for strengthening bones; contrary to popular belief, swimming – a low-impact exercise – doesn't do much to prevent bone-density loss.

The Jerusalem center sells a NIS 30 videocassette of exercises aimed at building bone mass.

FORTUNATELY for osteoporosis victims, some new medications have been developed in recent years that can not only prevent further decline in bone mass but even reverse the damage.

Merck's Fosamax (generically known as Alendronate and sold in many countries as

Fosamax) has been shown to reduce by 50% the risk of a fracture during the first year of taking it, and by 90% the danger of multiple fractures in the spine of women who have already had one fracture.

The problem is that the four health funds don't generously subsidize the NIS 8 pill to all members who need it.

The pill isn't usually prescribed to prevent osteoporosis, but mostly to treat patients who have already suffered from serious fractures. Even then, the insurers will pay only 40% to 50% of the cost, even though hospitalization and rehabilitation of patients who break their bones is much more expensive.

This issue was specifically raised in the first annual report of the Health Ministry's ombudsman, Dr. Karmi J. Rubin.

"As with any drug, there can be side effects," says Popovtzer. "It must be taken daily with a full glass of water two hours before meals, and one should stay upright all that time to prevent acids from the stomach rising to the esophagus, via reflux, and causing perforation or ulceration of the food pipe."

An even newer drug, raloxifene (sold as Evista), helps prevent, rather than treat, osteoporosis. But it, too, is expensive, and the health funds are reluctant to give it to women at risk for the disease.

The University of Washington in Seattle recently reported that a calcitonin-salmon nasal spray reduced by 36% the incidence of new spinal fractures in post-menopausal women with osteoporosis.

Popovtzer and Foldes are optimistic that even better treatments will be found in the future to reduce the risk and damage of osteoporosis – but even then, they say, it will still be a good idea to get up and take that walk, and a drink of milk.

Swimming with the current

Health Scan



By Post Health Reporter

Complementary medicine is becoming an increasingly acceptable alternative to conventional medicine, even though most practitioners are not supervised by the Health Ministry or even required to have a license or diploma.

A new study has found that kibbutzniks, who have tended to be quite conservative about medical care, are joining this wave too.

Drs. Doron Hermoni, Michael Kafman and Eliezer Kitai of the Technion's Rappaport Medical School and Tel Aviv University's Sackler Medical School wrote about the subject in a recent issue of *Harefuah*.

They queried the entire adult population of a kibbutz about their use of complementary medicine practitioners during the previous five years. Over 800 of them responded, and of these, over 16% said they had been treated at least once by such a practitioner, usually requiring them to seek help outside the kibbutz.

Women were more likely to go to complementary medicine practitioners than men, as were people of both sexes aged 41 to 65; the most common conditions for which they sought help were muscular and orthopedic problems and upper respiratory illnesses. The practitioner most often used was a homeopath, followed by people who claimed expertise in acupuncture and shiatsu.

About two-thirds of those who used complementary medicine practitioners said the treatments helped, even though it's impossible to know how many would have felt better without treatment or who improved due to the "placebo effect."

The researchers added that only 22% reported that the treatments "solved" their problem.



Kibbutzniks, though conservative, have taken to alternative medical techniques like acupuncture.

PLUGGING LEAKS

An unfortunate risk in surgery for removal of a cancerous or benignly enlarged prostate gland is loss of control over the bladder. But a new corrective surgery, introduced recently at Bnai Zion Hospital in Haifa, can improve the situation greatly, according to urologist Dr. Ofer Nativ, who developed the technique.

He says that one of the solutions was to implant an artificial valve,

but this requires surgery that often results in complications – forcing prostectomy patients to use a catheter and urine collection bag, or even diapers.

Instead, Nativ and his Bnai Zion team insert a synthetic band attached to the pelvic bones using special screws. This is said to improve the urethra's resistance to the flow of urine, and the relatively minor operation produces "immediate and excellent results."

HRT may not combat heart disease

By DANA MARZALEK

For years doctors have been advising menopausal women at high risk for heart disease to undergo hormone-replacement therapy because of its ability to reduce the danger of cardiovascular disease. But some of them are no longer so sure.

A major clinical trial led by University of California San Francisco researchers and colleagues at 18 US medical centers has found that estrogen plus progestin did not decrease the overall risk of heart attack and coronary death among postmenopausal women with previous heart disease.

The study, published August 19 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, reported that the hormone therapy appeared to increase the risk of heart attack in the first year of treatment and then to decrease it after two years of treatment.

The two effects balanced out, so that the number of women who had heart attacks or coronary death over the whole four years was similar in women who took hormones and in women who did not.

"Based on these findings, we don't recommend starting estrogen plus progestin for the purpose of preventing heart attacks in postmenopausal women with existing heart disease," said Dr. Stephen Hulley, an epidemiology and biostatistics expert at UCSF, and the leader of the Heart and Estrogen/progestin Replacement Study (HERS).

"There was no overall benefit during the four years of the trial, and the risk of heart attacks seemed to increase soon after starting hormones. But women who are already taking estrogen plus progestin could decide to continue, given the apparent decrease in risk of heart attack after several years."

THE first clinical trial large enough to examine the effects of postmenopausal estrogen plus progestin on cardiac disease outcomes, HERS also found that hormone therapy increased the risk of blood clots in the legs or lungs and the risk of gallbladder disease. Previous observational data have reported similar findings.

HERS was a randomized trial that included 2,763 women.

At the beginning of the study, all

of the women already had some form of coronary heart disease, including previous heart attack, bypass surgery, angioplasty or coronary artery narrowing. All had gone through menopause, and their average age was 67 at the start of the study. Half were randomly assigned to treatment with hormones; the other half took a placebo.

The participants were followed for 4.1 years to determine who had a heart attack or died of heart disease. "Women in the HERS trial took estrogen with progestin," noted Dr. Deborah Grady, the co-leader of the study, "so we don't have any information on the effect of estrogen taken alone."

Progestins can reduce the beneficial effects of estrogen on blood cholesterol, but the estrogen plus progestin treatment used in the trial significantly improved cholesterol. Grady noted that there was an 11% decrease in LDL cholesterol (the bad cholesterol) and a 10% increase in HDL cholesterol (the good cholesterol).

"HERS studied women with known heart disease," Hulley said, "so we don't know if our findings apply to postmenopausal women who don't have heart disease. We need the results of other clinical trials to answer that question."

A LARGE trial that includes healthy postmenopausal women and women taking estrogen alone is part of the Women's Health Initiative that is scheduled for completion in 2005, and several other trials are in progress.

The HERS trial found that estrogen plus progestin increased the risk of heart attack about 50% in the first year of the trial.

In the fourth and fifth year of treatment, women taking the drug had about a 40% reduction in risk of heart attack. It's not clear what might cause such a change over time.

"The initial increase was unexpected," noted Dr. Curt Furberg of Wake Forest University School of Medicine and chair of the HERS steering committee of investigators. "Perhaps estrogen plus progestin had a bad effect at the outset, such as increased clotting, that was later outweighed by a good effect on cholesterol."

"It often takes one to two years for drugs that reduce cholesterol to lower the risk of heart attacks," Furberg noted.

The change over time could also be due to chance. However, this is statistically unlikely, and recent findings from the Nurses' Health Study suggest that the change over

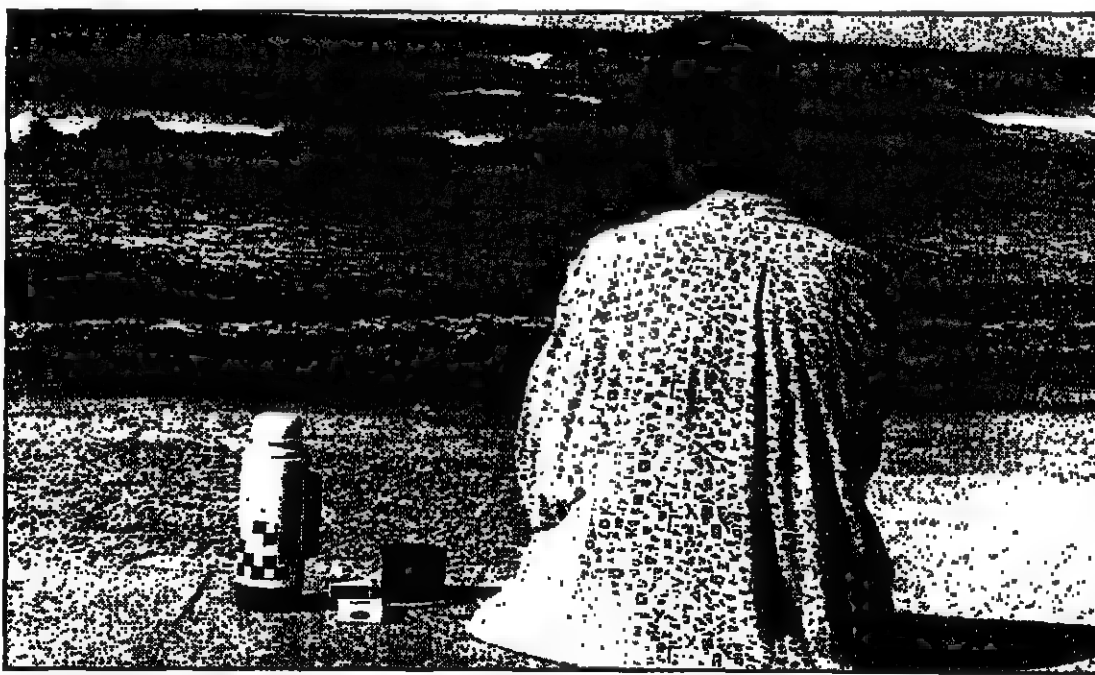
time is real. Most prior observational studies have reported that estrogen plus progestin substantially reduce the risk of heart attack.

According to Grady, evidence from observational studies might be misleading because women who choose to take hormone therapy are generally healthier and have lower risk for heart attack than women who do not take hormones. Also, observational studies are usually not able to detect the early effects of therapy.

"While the results of this investigation did not demonstrate the prevention of heart attacks during the four-year study, HERS is a significant contribution to understanding how hormone treatment acts on the coronary system of cardiac-compromised older women," said Dr. Philip J. de Vane of Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories, which sponsored the study.

It's important to note that HERS participants were older women with preexisting heart disease. Typical hormone users do not have existing heart disease and start therapy at a younger age – at the outset of menopause – for the treatment of menopausal symptoms and the prevention of osteoporosis.

(University of California at San Francisco News Service)



Following a major study, menopausal women at high risk for cardiovascular disease are no longer being steered to hormone-replacement therapy.

(Yasov Shaltiel)

Turning the Grim Reaper away – permanently

By JOHN M. MORAN

When cervical cancer killed Henrietta Lacks in 1951, no one guessed she would achieve a strange kind of immortality. Yet today, nearly half a century later, the cancer cells that killed Lacks live on in laboratories around the world – long after most human tissue would have reached old age and stopped reproducing.

As far as anyone can tell, these so-called "HeLa cells" are immortal. Given the proper conditions, cell biologists say, the cells will simply go on growing and replicating forever.

To researchers studying human aging, the example of the HeLa cells poses a fundamental question: If human tissue cells can live indefinitely, why not people? The answer may be near. A vast array of research projects is providing stunning new insights into why the

human body grows old and dies – and how it might live on instead.

Doctors and scientists, taking advantage of some of the latest medical breakthroughs, are unearthing tantalizing clues about how the aging process can be slowed and perhaps even stopped.

Their work raises the prospect that, within the next decade or two, humans could routinely live to age 100 and beyond. Better yet, they could do so with the health and vitality now associated with many people in their 60s and 70s.

"Within 10 years we'll be able to prove that we can extend life span, and prevent aging diseases and what we know of as the aging process," said Dr. Michael Fossel, editor of the *Journal of Anti-Aging Medicine*.

Indeed, some observers are even suggesting that humans – like the HeLa cells – might one day conquer death itself.

"Today, we face the Grim Reaper whether we want to or not," said Ben Bova, author of the upcoming new book, *Immortality: How Science Is Extending Your Life Span – and Changing the World*.

"But in the very near future, perhaps in a decade or less, we'll be able to push that moment of reckoning off for a very long time."

"And perhaps we'll eventually be able to push that off indefinitely," he said.

Medical science has already made astounding progress in lengthening human life expectancy. Most of it has resulted not from anti-aging research but from preventing premature death. Antibiotic drugs, better sanitation, better nutrition and improved safety have all helped reduce the number of people who die young, thereby increasing average life expectancy.

Recently, however, researchers have begun taking aim at the very

process of aging itself – a quest that could increase both life expectancy and life spans.

"It's totally possible that we have within our hands the technology of preventing human aging," said Michael West, chairman of Origin Therapeutics, a San Francisco biotechnology company.

THE effort represents a fundamental shift in how some scientists approach anti-aging research.

Instead of seeing aging as the natural consequence of a long life, these researchers regard aging itself as a disease, one that can be successfully treated, perhaps even "cured."

"The biotechnology explosion is almost completely involved in anti-aging medicine. It's hard to think of a technological innovation coming out of the laboratory today that doesn't have some immediate application to enhancing the quali-

ty or increasing the quantity of the human life span," said Dr. Ronald Klatz, president of the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine.

One of the most promising lines of research is into a part of the human cell called a telomere. Some scientists believe these telomeres hold key secrets to why cells – and ultimately, people – age and die.

A telomere is a kind of cap that forms around the chromosomes in cells, protecting those chromosomes from damage, especially when the cell reproduces. Research shows that every time the cell divides, the telomeres get a little shorter.

Eventually, when the telomeres reach a certain critical length, the cell can no longer divide properly. Somehow the cell recognizes this and begins to self-destruct. Think of the telomere as a kind of fuse; when it burns down, the life of the cell is ended.

This limit on the number of times human cells can divide has been known for nearly four decades. But just in the past year, scientists for Geron Corp. and at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center have discovered a way to short-circuit that process.

These researchers found that when they inserted "telomerase," a special enzyme that rebuilds telomeres, into human cells, the result was longer telomeres and longer cell life in laboratory experiments.

"We think it's arguably one of the most important achievements in our understanding of the biology of cell aging," said Geron CEO Ron Hastman.

But even some who acknowledge the value of the research have doubts about whether telomere manipulation will prove to be a "magic bullet" against aging. "We don't know whether that's what really limits our life span. It's

just what you might call an exciting possibility," said Jason Wolfe, a specialist in cell biology at Wesleyan University.

Meanwhile, much other research is directed at helping people remain healthy for a greater percentage of their current life span. Indeed, many researchers believe the focus should be on increasing the "health span," not life span.

That means tackling conditions like arthritis, hypertension, cancer, stroke, Alzheimer's disease, bone loss, failing eyesight and hearing.

"We want to address the research to the debilitating conditions that are associated with aging, not to prevent aging itself," said Stephen Cutler, president of the Gerontological Society of America. "Not adding years to life, but life to years. That captures what the thrust to the research ought to be," Cutler said.

(The Hartford Courant)

ISRAELI SHARES
ABROAD

LAST CHANGE

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US stocks, bonds rise
on rate-cut hopes

Wall Street

Stocks closed firmer on Friday in a sharp rebound, as hopes for an interest rate cut this week by the Federal Reserve offset fears about the impact of emerging market troubles on financial institutions.

Bonds rose in a flight to quality, while the dollar rebounding from a 17-month low against the German mark.

"I think the notion that you can't fight the Fed is winning against the crowd that argues you can't fight the tape," Charlie Crane, chief market strategist at Key Asset Management, said.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 26.78 points, or 0.33 percent, at 8,028.77. For the week, it gained 133.11 points.

"Mr. Greenspan's comments earlier this week have raised the hopes of investors on this side of the ocean that an accommodative monetary policy is forthcoming," Crane said. "That is offsetting the chilling effect of the news that hit the tape yesterday about Long-Term Capital Management."

The Federal Open Market Committee, chaired by Fed chief Alan Greenspan, meets on Tuesday. There is no longer a question of whether rates will be cut, analysts said, but rather, by how much.

On the New York Stock Exchange, declining issues led advances by a narrow margin on volume of 724 million shares.

"A rate cut is pretty much a done deal, and very much priced into the market," Charles White, managing director of Avator Associates, said.

The Nasdaq rose 23.25 points to 1,743.59, up 79.82 for the week, while the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index advanced 2.03 points to 1,044.75, up 24.66 for the week.

The Dow slid 100 points in volatile early trading after overseas markets tumbled in response to Wall Street's rout on Thursday, when investors were worried that

STOCKS

Dow Jones 8028.77 +0.3%

FTSE 5061 +2.06%

Nikkei 13723.84 +3.39%

more hedge funds may need rescuing after the bailout of Long-Term Capital Management.

"Concerns about the banking situation are now being offset by the possibility of a rate cut next week," Tony Dwyer, chief market strategist at Ladenburg Thalmann, said. "The rate cut issue is going to dominate the market now, with the other matter largely factored in."

Greenspan stoked hopes of a rate cut when he told a Senate committee on Wednesday that speedy action was needed to prevent the global turmoil from harming the US economy. (Reuters)

Europe

European stock markets closed mostly lower on Friday, led by a drop in bank shares, as profit warnings related to financial crises in Asia, Russia and other emerging economies further damaged investors' confidence.

Benchmark stock market indices closed down 2.09% in Paris, 2.06% in London, 2.3% in Amsterdam, 2.4% in Milan and 0.58% in Frankfurt, though most were significantly above the lows they touched earlier in the day.

London's FTSE 100 closed at 5061 points, down 106.6. Frankfurt's Xetra DAX index ended at 4584.41 points, down 26.93. France's CAC-40 index closed at 3310.59 points.

Down 70.54. Bucking the trend, Spain's Ibx-35 index ended up

Asia

Asian stock markets closed lower across the board Friday, pushed down by an overnight overnight plunge on Wall Street and worries over the bailout of a US hedge fund.

In Tokyo, the benchmark 225 issue Nikkei Stock Average fell 481.94 points, or 3.39%, to close at 13,723.84 points.

The fall more than reversed the gains the Nikkei made on Thursday.

Traders said the Japanese stock market, which is heavily influenced by the health of the U.S. market, was hurt by the near-collapse of a major American hedge fund earlier this week.

Hedge funds make speculative bets with money from wealthy investors.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.770	4.800	5.000	
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.550	5.540	5.520	
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.180	2.280	2.700	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.060	0.190	0.580	
Yen (10 million yen)				

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (25.9.98)

CHECKS AND TRANSFERS				
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Banknote	Rep.
U.S. dollar	4.1588	4.2258	3.74	3.98
German mark	3.8123	3.7735	3.24	2.98
Pound sterling	5.5574	5.5444	5.26	5.00
French franc	0.9891	0.9899	0.47	0.71
Japanese yen (100)	2.6762	2.6762	0.78	2.95
Dutch guilder	2.0282	2.0282	1.09	2.04
Swiss franc	2.7570	2.7570	2.76	2.79
Swedish krona	0.4853	0.4852	0.47	0.48
Norwegian krona	0.5150	0.5234	0.50	0.48
Danish krona	0.8010	0.8107	0.59	0.51
Finnish mark	0.7511	0.7633	0.73	0.69
Canadian dollar	2.5256	2.5256	2.48	2.47
Australian dollar	2.2502	2.2502	2.21	2.20
S. African rand	0.8511	0.8511	0.69	0.67
Belgian franc (10)	1.1088	1.1267	1.08	1.15
Austrian schilling (10)	3.2516	3.3041	3.19	3.35
Italian lira (1000)	2.5131	2.5505	2.27	2.35
Jordanian dinar	3.5543	3.5407	5.26	5.65
Egyptian pound	—	—	1.08	1.17
ECU	4.4945	4.5870	5.61	5.98
Irish punt	5.7165	5.8088	5.61	5.98
Spanish peseta (100)	2.9824	2.7558	2.54	2.71

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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US COMMODITIES

Gold (Dec)	386.2	+0.2
Silver (Dec)	5.18	+0.02
Copper (Dec)	0.35	+0.01
Crude oil (Dec)	22.15	+0.05
Wheat (Dec)	2.15	+0.01
Soybeans (Dec)	1.15	+0.01
Corn (Dec)	1.15	+0.01
Wheat (Mar)	2.15	+0.01
Soybeans (Mar)	1.15	+0.01
Corn (Mar)	1.15	+0.01

LONDON COMMODITIES

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Corn (Mar)	1.15	+0.01

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

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NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

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LONDON METAL FIXES

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Foreign financial data courtesy of
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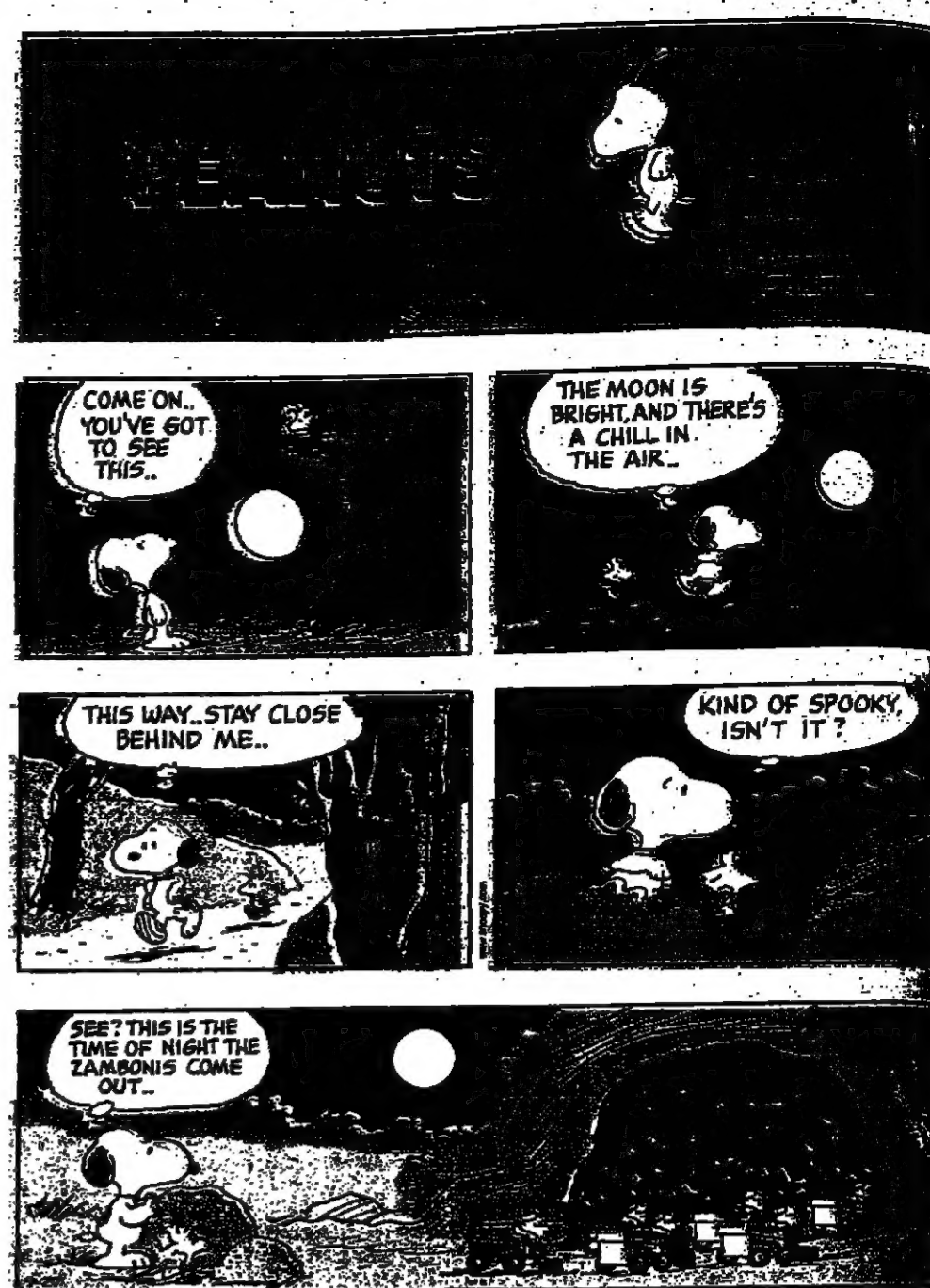
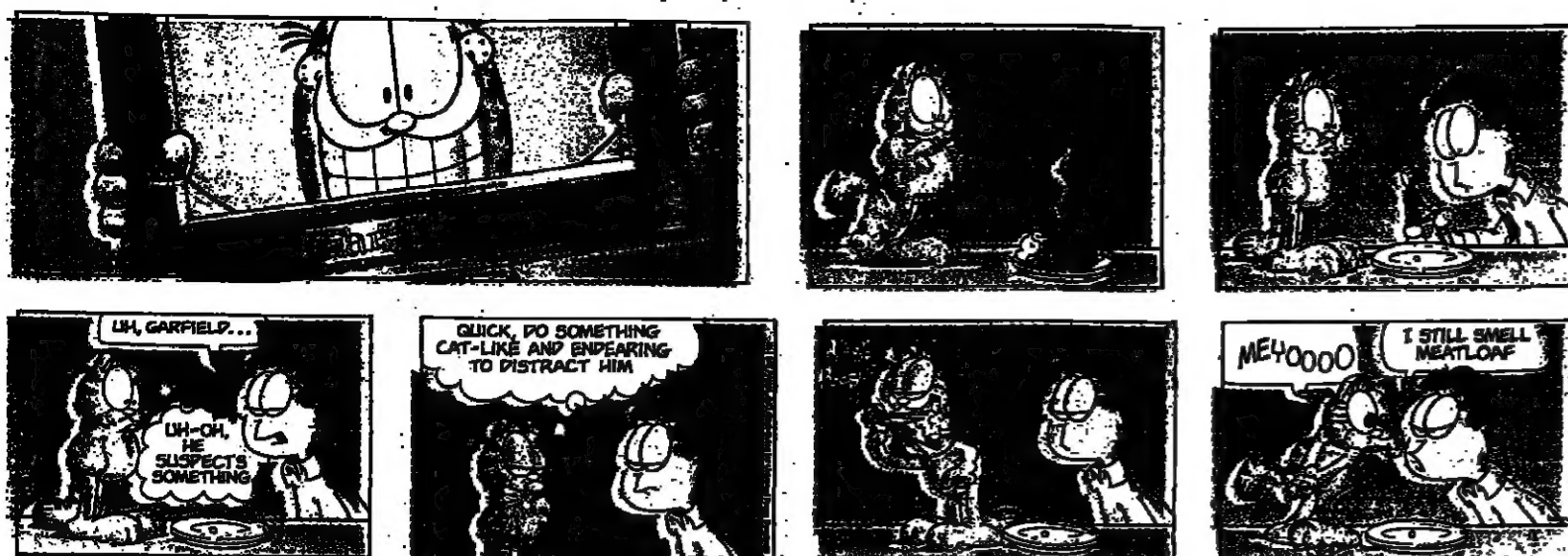
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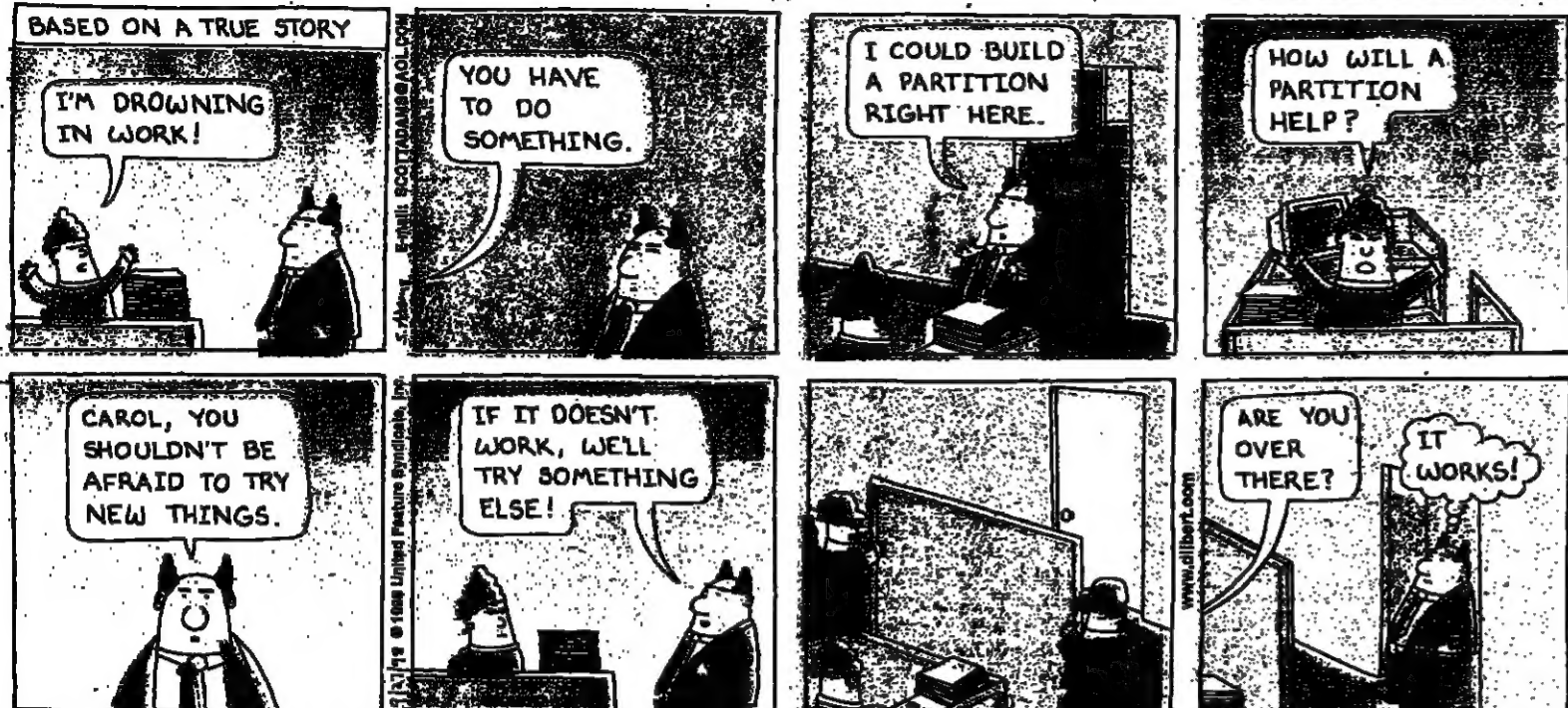
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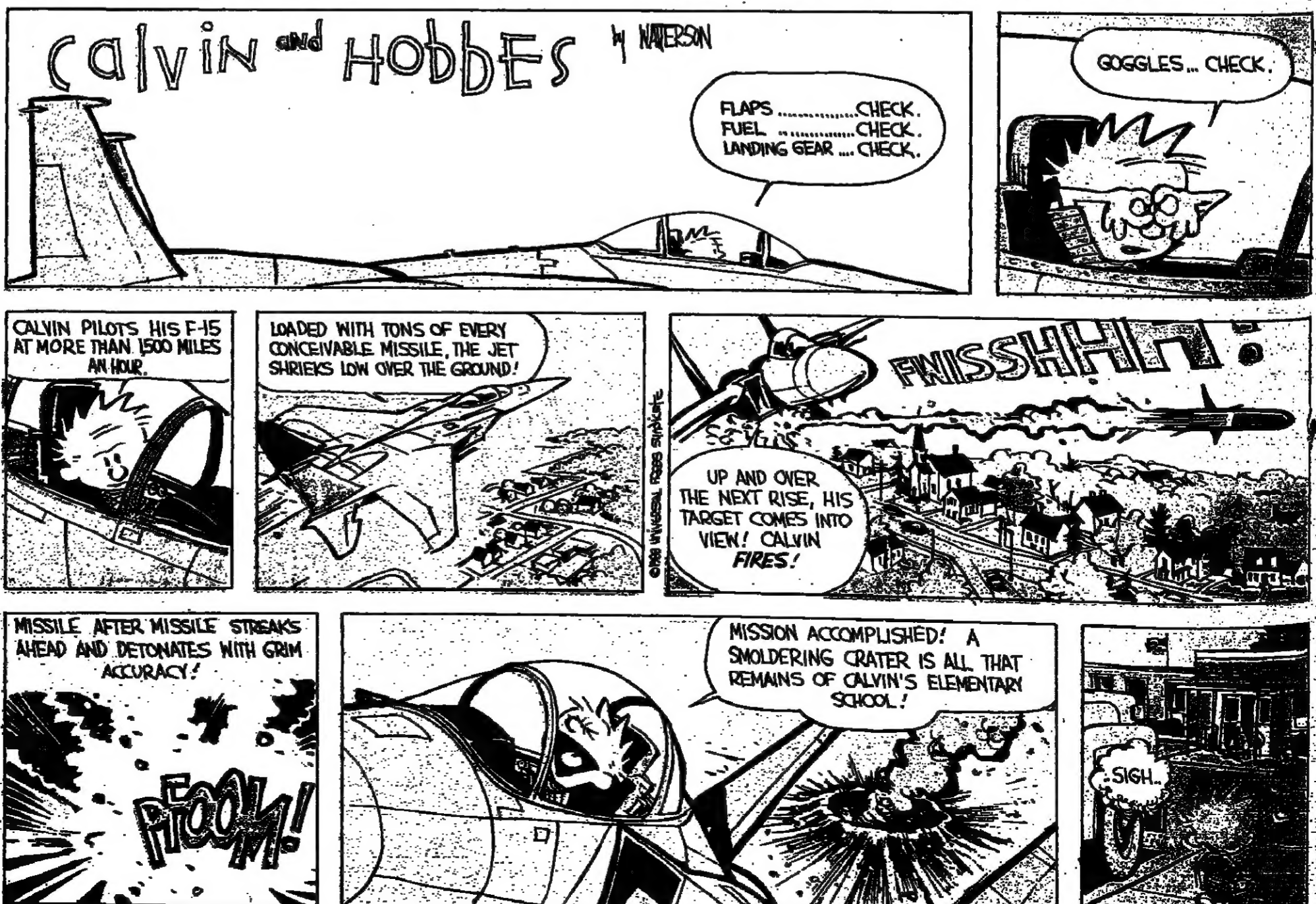
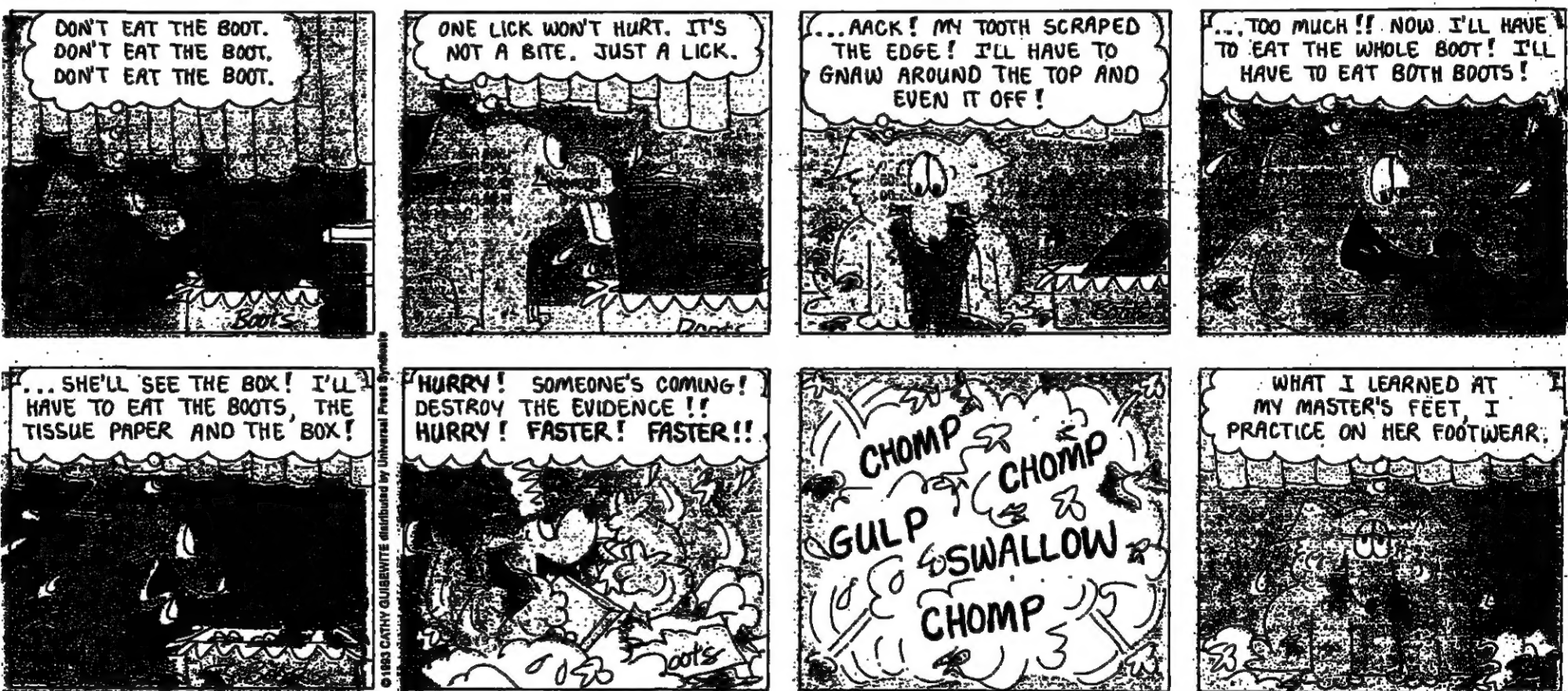
DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



CATHY

BY CATHY GUISEWITE



CRITICISM

CLASSICAL MUSIC

DANCE THEATRE

CRYPTIC

TELEGRAPH

Inside

Baseball roundup

Page 13

Sports Editors

Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

McGwire takes lead with 67th homer

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Mark McGwire reclaimed the lead in the home run derby yesterday, hitting No. 67 in the fourth inning against the Montreal Expos' Dustin Hermanson.

McGwire's second homer in two days, his second in three at-bats, put him one ahead of Sammy Sosa with one game to go in the season.

The game was not over by press deadline.

With one out in the fourth, he lined a first-pitch fastball into the left-field seats, a drive measured at 403 feet.

Both McGwire and Sosa hit their 66th homers on Friday night, the 21st time they homered on the same day, to keep the race tied.

Braves 4, Mets 0

When they could least afford it, the New York Mets find themselves in a full-scale slump.

Andrew Jones' two-run double highlighted a three-run sixth inning and the Atlanta Braves further damaged New York's wild-card hopes with a 4-0 victory yesterday, the Mets' fourth straight loss.

Giants 8, Rockies 4

Amazingly, the San Francisco Giants lead the NL wild-card race heading into the final day of the regular season.

Stan Javier homered twice to double his season total as the surging Giants won their sixth straight.



DYNAMIC DUO — French tennis players Guillaume Raoux (right) and Jerome Golmard watch the ball in their Davis Cup match yesterday. They beat Eyal Erlich and Noam Behr 6-1, 6-4, 6-3.

France up 3-0 in Davis Cup

By HEATHER CHAIT

The result was less disappointing than the way it was reached.

France has taken a 3-0 lead in the Davis Cup tie against Israel in Ramat Hasharon after the first two matches, winning the tie and the privilege of returning to the 1999 World Group.

Today's singles matches will be "dead" rubbers, played over three sets.

"The result was expected but we could have done more," is how a dejected captain Shlomo Glickstein summed up his team's performance. "I expected closer games and better tennis from the players."

After Israel lost both singles matches on Friday with Harel Levy losing to Guillaume Raoux 7-6(1), 6-2, 6-4 and Amir Hadad crumbling 6-2, 6-3, 6-3 before Cedric Pioline.

Cedric Pioline, hopes were pinned on the trusted pair of Eyal Erlich and Noam Behr to recover a modicum of honor in yesterday's doubles.

More Davis Cup action, Page 13

But this match only served to reaffirm the colossal gaps between the teams.

Raoux and Jerome Golmard, playing together for the first time, set out to wrap up the tie and en route made the Israeli duo look like the odd couple.

The only surprise the French received on court was the ease of their task as they confronted a dissonant, shoddy opposition.

In little over 100 minutes, the French had won 6-1, 6-4, 6-3.

Where the Israelis looked tense and ill at ease, executing countless unforced errors, the French were the picture of mobility and control as they enjoyed their rout of the hosts.

Erlich suffered particularly as his efforts time and again were stymied by an out of form Behr whose poor show included five double faults.

"I had hoped to bother them more than we did," said a dispirited Erlich afterwards.

In the French court it was celebration all round. "It was easier than we expected," said captain Yannick Noah. "The main difference was that we won the important points. Against a young team, it's crucial to win the first games, and when we kept winning, it just got to the Israelis' minds."

On a more somber note he added, "Our team's strength is in our good spirit; the players are willing to give a lot for the team."

In Friday's singles, France's No. 1 player, Pioline, 18 in the ATP Tour rankings swept aside Hadad (322).

Hadad's desperation showed as he tried to adjust his game to outsmart the Frenchman, but rarely succeeding. Hadad's play

improved slightly in the third set, when he broke Pioline's serve but the 20-year-old never found the formula to counter Pioline's wily strokes and enormous serves.

"I just didn't know what to expect. He's the highest ranked player I've ever faced and my legs were frozen in the beginning," said Hadad.

Pioline explained his winning secret. "I broke him early in each set and so controlled the match."

Levy (217) tried bravely to cope with the task of being Israel's No. 1 player in his first Davis Cup match but he was out of his depth. After he brought Raoux to 6-6 in the first set, Levy disintegrated in the tiebreak and from then on could not pick up the pieces.

Praise for Levy came from Noah after the match. "He has a good attitude and can become a good player. Experience is the issue."

Raoux agreed, saying, "Levy has talent but needs two or three years at the top level to improve himself."

Levy was less admiring of himself. "I couldn't cope with his speed. I had my chances but he just made no mistakes."

In today's reverse singles at 1 pm, Levy will play Pioline and Hadad will play Raoux.

Mac. TA beats Mac. Haifa 2-1

By DEREK FATTAL

Maccabi Tel Aviv finally notched up their first league victory of the season yesterday at the expense of Maccabi Haifa. The 2-1 result will help relax the pressure on Tel Aviv coach Avraham Grant, whose position has looked far from secure as the Tel Avivians have struggled since the opening day of the current campaign.

This fast-paced encounter — which sealed the fourth round of league action — was the only National League match played over the weekend. The game had been postponed a week due to Haifa's involvement in the Cup Winners' Cup against Paris St. Germain. Twelve other clubs from the top flight spent the weekend completing the second round of Toto Cup group-play, while the Second Division teams took to the field for the third round of their section of the Toto Cup.

There was a surprisingly large attendance of over 15,000 spectators at the National Stadium Ramat Gan for the Tel Aviv-Haifa clash which brought together two sides which have failed to live up to anything like their true potential over the last two years.

As a result of sloppy planning, hundreds of annoyed fans were locked outside the ground which has a capacity of over 40,000. The host club had simply not printed enough tickets for the match to meet the demand, and so ticket scalpers had a field day.

Maccabi Tel Aviv got off to a dream start when David Revivo — the brother of Celta Vigo star Haim — rose high to head home a superbly flighted cross from the left wing by Moshe Glan in the 10th minute.

It did not take long for the Haifa defense to fall to pieces once

again, when Tel Aviv's Andrei Kobice skirted through the area only to be brought down by a desperate lunge by Haifa's Arik Benado. Kobice took the penalty himself and had no trouble in beating Nir Davidovich from the spot to give Tel Aviv the comfort of a two-goal lead with just 18 minutes on the clock.

The hosts' own defensive fragilities were exposed five minutes later when a simple wall pass through the center of the park sent Haifa's Alon Mizrahi on his way to goal to make the scoreline 2-1 with a shot that crashed off the crossbar before crossing the goal line.

In the second half, Avram Casey missed a fine chance to level for Haifa with a shot that sailed over the goal, while at the other end Maccabi Tel Aviv almost increased their tally in the 72nd minute when a forcefully hit kick from Alon Ophir was blocked by the upright after beating Davidovich.

The Tel Avivians managed to endure some final pressure towards the end of the game before emerging worthy victors, and so leaving the Haifaites with plenty of food for thought before their crucial return match on Thursday at Kiryat Eliezer against Maccabi Jaffa.

NATIONAL LEAGUE							
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Hapoel Haifa	4	3	1	0	11	6	10
Bnei Yehuda	4	3	0	1	14	6	9
Maccabi Petah Tikva	4	3	0	1	14	5	9
Hapoel Be'er Sheva	4	3	0	1	7	3	9
Zairim Holon	4	2	1	1	8	3	7
Hapoel Kat Save	4	2	1	1	8	6	5
Hapoel Jerusalem	4	2	1	1	8	5	5
Maccabi Haifa	4	2	0	2	2	3	4
Hapoel Tel Aviv	4	2	0	2	2	3	4
Bnei Yehuda	4	1	1	2	7	6	4
Maccabi Haifa	4	1	1	2	7	6	4
Ironi Ashdod	4	1	1	2	7	10	4
Maccabi Tel Aviv	4	1	1	2	7	11	4
14. Ironi Rishon	4	1	1	2	7	13	4
Hapoel Be'er Sheva	4	1	0	3	3	4	2
Maccabi Haifa	4	0	0	4	1	13	0